

- * **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**

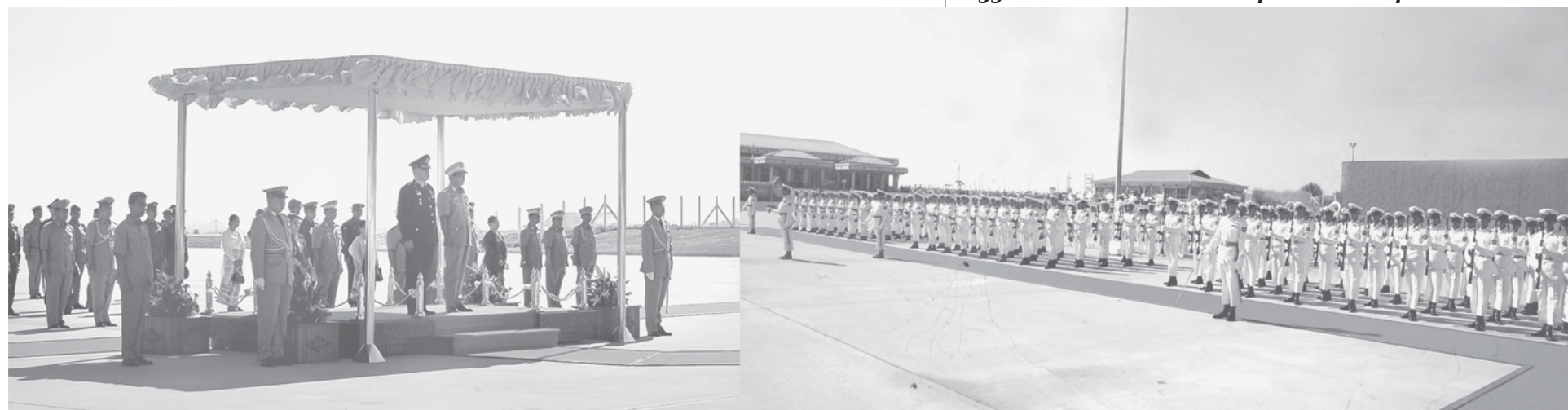
- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country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

- * 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

MNA

Next, the Thai goodwill delegation left for Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.—*MNA*

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara take the salute of the Guard of Honour.—MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 27 January, 2009

Exert concerted efforts for further development of storm-hit regions

The government is trying its utmost in carrying out the rehabilitation and reconstruction work in storm-hit regions while striving for improvement of the socio-economic status of local people.

The fifth coordination meeting of the ASEAN Centre for Providing Humanitarian Aids to the Storm Nargis-hit Regions was held in Thailand on 16 and 17 January. A Myanmar delegation attended the meeting at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General.

A delegation led by the Norwegian Minister for Environment and a delegation led by the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation visited Pyinsalu in Labutta Township, Hlaingphone Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township and Sethsan Village in Bogale Township on 22 January to study humanitarian aids provided and rehabilitation tasks being carried out at the storm-hit regions and met with local people.

Those visiting organizations observed housing project, schools, solar-powered generating plant, dispensaries and construction and distribution of fishing boats and plantations being rehabilitated at the storm-ravaged regions.

In carrying out the rehabilitation and reconstruction work in storm-hit regions, the government is taking steps to restore economic undertakings of those regions, for providing better transport, for towns and villages to have the characteristics of a town or a village and for ensuring regional development.

Nowadays, thanks to concerted efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, local and international organizations and well-wishers, unprecedented progress has been made in storm-hit regions. At such a time, all the local people are to make continued efforts for further development of the storm-hit regions.

U Aung Naing, Chairman of Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay and officials of the township Fire Services Department taking fire preventive measures.—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

Second gold plate donation for Uppatasanti Pagoda to be built in Nay Pyi Taw



Second gold plate donation for Uppatasanti Pagoda to be built in Nay Pyi Taw being held at the Dhamayon of the pagoda.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—The second gold-plate donation for Uppatasanti Pagoda to be built in Nay Pyi Taw was held at the Dhamayon on the pagoda hill yesterday.

Present were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, the deputy ministers, members of Pagoda Finance Committee, officials, invited guests and wellwishers.

Officers and servicemen of Tatmadaw (Air), families of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Transport donated three-tical gold plate each for the pagoda. Minister's Office of the Ministry of Electric Power-2, departments and enterprises and Yangon

City Electricity Supply Board donated five gold plates, battalions and regiments under Pyinmana Thebyu station one gold plate, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Khin Pyone two gold plates, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and wife Daw Mya Theingi, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and wife Daw Myint Myint Aye, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife Daw Aye Aye, Minister for Electric Power-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and wife Daw May Kyi Sein,

Deputy Minister for Electric Power-2 Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife Daw Tin Ma Ma Tun and Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and wife Daw Khin Nyunt Myaing one gold plate each.

Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo and wife, and Lt-Col Win Myint Aung and other wellwishers donated one gold plate weighing three ticals; Brig-Gen Khin Maung Soe of the Office of the Chief of Military Affairs Security and family one plate of gold weighing one tical; Managing Director U Khin Maung Se of the Public Works and family one plate of gold weighing

three ticals; Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe one plate of gold weighing three ticals; U Htay Aung, Assistant Engineer of the Public Works and family one plate of gold weighing three ticals and other wellwishers donated gold plates to the pagoda through deputy ministers and officials concerned. At the ceremony, a total of 46 wellwishers donated three-tical-weight 49 gold plates and one-tical-weight eight gold plates in total. So far, the total number of gold plates donated to the pagoda has reached three-tical 144 gold plates and one-tical 18 gold plates donated by 111 wellwishers.

MNA

Talks on Development of Agricultural Sector in Israel 28 Jan

YANGON, 26 Jan—Jointly organized by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Israeli Embassy in the Union of Myanmar, talks on Development of Agricultural Sector in Israel will be given at UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Street

in Lanmadaw Township here at 1 p.m on 28 January (Wednesday).

One Myanmar agriculturalist, two Israeli agriculturalists and one entrepreneur will give

talks on agricultural techniques, international quality standard and market penetration. Those wishing to listen to the talks may book for a seat, dialing 214344.—MNA

Tobacco Kills

Afghan President condemns US forces killed 16 civilians



Afghan villagers shout slogans against the US and Afghan governments during a demonstration following a US operation in their village, in Mehterlam, capital of Laghman Province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan on 25 Jan, 2009. Afghan President Hamid Karzai's latest criticism follows a Saturday raid in Laghman Province that the US says killed 15 armed militants, including a woman with an RPG, but that Afghan officials say killed civilians.—INTERNET

KABUL, 26 Jan—President Hamid Karzai condemned a US operation he said killed 16 Afghan civilians, while hundreds of villagers denounced the American military during an angry demonstration on Sunday.

Karzai said the killing of innocent Afghans during US military operations “is strengthening the terrorists.” He also announced that his Ministry of Defence sent Washington a draft technical agreement that seeks to give Afghanistan more oversight over US military operations. The same letter has also been sent to NATO headquarters.

Karzai in recent weeks has increasingly lashed out at his Western backers over the issue of civilian casualties, even as US politicians and a top NATO official have publicly criticized Karzai for the slow pace of progress here.

The back-and-forth comes as the new administration of President Barack Obama must decide whether to support Karzai as he seeks re-election later this year as part of the United States’ overall Afghan strategy. Karzai’s latest criticism follows a Saturday raid in Laghman Province that the US says killed 15 armed militants, including a woman with an RPG, but that Afghan officials say killed civilians.—*Internet*

Five civilians, 13 Taleban killed in Afghanistan

HERAT, 26 Jan—Police in remote northwestern Afghanistan killed 13 Taleban fighters in a clash triggered by the killings of five civilians by the militants, police said on Sunday.

The militants first shot dead a tribal elder and his wife in their home in Badghis Province on Saturday because the man did not agree to collect food and money for them, provincial police chief Mo-

ammed Ayob Niazyar said. Three more local men were killed and five wounded when residents attacked the rebels, Niazyar told *AFP*. Police later arrived at the scene and another battle ensued.

“Thirteen of the Taleban have been killed and seven of them were injured in a clash when police arrived at the area,” he said.

The fighting took place in Muqur district, which

is on the border with Turkmenistan.

Military officials say Badghis Province is home to a key smuggling route for drugs and other goods, which contributes to the number of attacks in the area. The extremist Taleban were in government between 1996 and 2001, when they were ousted for sheltering Al-Qaeda, and are now waging an insurgency to regain power.—*Internet*

Biden says American deaths in Afghanistan are likely to increase

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan—Vice President Biden, in a somber assessment of the road ahead, predicted Sunday that American casualties will climb in Afghanistan as the Obama administration shifts military priorities in the battle against terrorism.

The war in that country will get bloodier, he said, as the US sends in additional troops to take back territory now controlled by Taleban militants, who were weakened when American forces invaded following the 9/11 terrorist attacks but have re-

gained strength in recent years.

“We’ve inherited a real mess,” Biden said in an interview on CBS’ *Face the Nation*, referring to decisions by the Bush administration and some US allies that have allowed extremists to regain their footing and the drug trade to thrive.

“We’re about to go in and try to essentially reclaim territory that’s been effectively lost. ... All of this means we’re going to be engaging the enemy more now.” Asked if this would lead to more losses

of US soldiers, Biden said: “I hate to say it, but yes I think there will be. There will be an uptick.” Biden’s comments come as the new administration of President Obama is examining how to deploy the approximately 20,000 additional American forces that expected to be sent to Afghanistan this year. There are about 32,000 there already, and Obama has pledged to mount an Iraq-like “surge” designed to impose security in cities and towns that have essentially gone lawless.

Internet

Chavez says US must make first move for diplomacy

CARACAS, 26 Jan—President Hugo Chavez on Sunday welcomed a US offer to improve diplomatic relations across the world — but said the United States needs to make the first move.

In a column published in 28 Venezuelan newspapers, Chavez said that his and other nations will reach toward the US “full of fraternity,” as long as President Barack Obama avoids being trapped by old antagonisms.

In his inaugural address, Obama directed a line toward “those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent.”

Without mentioning specific names, Obama said that the US “will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.”—*Internet*



A woman wounded in a suicide car bomb attack receives treatment in a hospital in Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, on 24 Jan, 2009. A suicide bomber drove a car loaded with explosives into a police checkpoint northwest of Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least five policemen and wounding six other police officers and seven civilians a week before the provincial elections, police said.—INTERNET

US business climate worst in 27 years

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan—US firms are experiencing the worst business conditions in 27 years as the year-long recession worsens, a survey showed on Monday.

The National Association of Business Economics’ (NABE) quarterly industry poll found that the economic slump worsened in the fourth quarter and the majority of respondents expected gross domestic product to contract at a faster pace in 2009.

The US economy tipped into recession in December 2007 and there are worries the downturn, triggered by the domestic housing market crash, could be the worst since World War Two. “The NABE’s industry survey depicts the worst business conditions since the survey began in 1982, confirming the US recession deepened in the fourth quarter of 2008,” said spokeswoman Sara Johnson.—*Internet*

The remains of a car after it blew up, killing three policemen and wounding nine near the western Iraqi city of Fallujah. The attack came as the police patrol headed back to their base in the town of Al-Garma, police said.

INTERNET



Chinese Lunar New Year triggers shopping spree in Beijing

BEIJING, 26 Jan—The worldwide financial crisis has yet to dampen the shopping enthusiasm of people in Beijing, with 1,904 outlets recording a total turnover of 639 million yuan (about 85.2 million US dollars) on Sunday, the eve of the Spring Festival.

The sales volume is up 13.4 percent from the same period last year, according to sources with the Beijing commerce information center, which monitored the sales of the 1,904 stores.

The Caishikou department store topped the list with a 30 million-yuan

turnover, a growth of 74.7 percent from the same day last year.

Beijing's restaurants also had a brisk business as Spring Festival is a time for family reunion.

Many of them have been fully booked days before the festival.

Xinhua



Children who became disabled during the 12 May, 2008 earthquake visit the Shuangliu Airport in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 24 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA

92% Cambodians with HIV/AIDS receive treatment

PHNOM PENH, 26 Jan—More than 92 percent of the Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS have been provided with anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment in 2008, a 7 percent rise over 2007, national media said on Monday.

With this, Cambodia is coming closer to its objective of making ARV drugs available to nearly all who need them by 2010, Mean ChhiVun, director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs, was quoted by English-Khmer language newspaper the Cambodia Daily as saying.

"We now cover 92 percent. Our target is 97 percent in 2010. The universal access target is about 85 percent, but for Cambodia, we want to provide anti-retroviral treatment for all," he said.—Xinhua



Locals buy Chinese traditional craftworks during a temple fair held in the China Street in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 25 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA

China to step up solar energy research, development

BEIJING, 26 Jan—The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has launched an initiative to boost the development of solar energy technology, in a bid to turn it into a major energy source in China by 2050.

A CAS official said that the academy had organized academicians and

experts to make an action plan and will set up a platform to support scientific innovations involving solar energy.

The plan will be carried out in three phases, including "distributed utilization" by 2015, "alternative utilization" by 2025 and "large-scale utilization" by 2035, respec-

tively.

This action plan aims to form value chain on technological innovation including basic studies, application studies and market research.

CAS experts said that China has a big potential for solar energy development. The duration of sunshine for two-thirds of its territory is more than 2,200 hours a year. It also has vast desert areas, where solar energy could be "harvested".—Xinhua



Entrepreneur Esther Dyson holds up a flare during her outdoor training to be a back-up spaceflight participant in the Star City space centre outside Moscow on 23 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Iran sees US approach at next G5+1 meeting as test for change in policy

TEHERAN, 26 Jan—Iran's Majlis (parliament) Speaker Ali Larijani said on Sunday that a US approach at the next G5+1 meeting would be a test for a change in the policy, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The approach of the US at the next meeting of UN Security Council permanent members, including France, Britain, China, Russia and the US, plus Germany (Group 5+1) and the way it deals with Iran's nuclear issue would be a test for change of President Barack Obama's policy towards Teheran, Larijani was quoted as saying.

Reportedly, the group 5+1 will meet in London on Monday to discuss the issue of Iran's controversial nuclear programme.—Xinhua

Nepal targets one mln int'l tourists by 2011

KATHMANDU, 26 Jan—The Nepali government will give free visa to all those coming for the second time to Nepal in order to make Nepal Tourism Year (NTY) 2011 a grand success, The Himalayan Times reported on Monday.

Speaking at the first NTY 2011 promotional programme on Sunday, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Hisila Yami said that the government is focusing on improving infrastructure like hotels and the airport to provide facilities to the tourists.

NTY 2011 has a target of one million tourists and to provide facilities, additional investment in tourism infrastructure is needed, she said, adding "various infrastructure developments will be done within Tribhuvan International Airport."—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Four killed, 15 injured in two US shootings

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan—Four people were killed and 15 people injured Saturday night in two separate shootings in the United States, police said on Sunday.

The first incident took place in Portland, Ore, where a gunman killed two teenage girls and injured seven others outside an underage nightclub before shooting himself in

the head, Rosie Sizer, the city's police chief told reporters.

Sizer described the shooting as "unprecedented" in Portland.

The shooter was identified only as a 24-year-old man who was in critical condition in hospital on Sunday.

One of the wounded victims was also in critical condition, four in sta-

ble condition and the rest two had been released.

There was no indication that the suspect knew the victims.

In the second case, two people died and seven were wounded in a shooting in Wichita, Kan.

Of the injured, one was in critical condition at a Wichita hospital, and four were listed as serious.

Xinhua

Obama faces Republican rancour as economy reels

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan— President Barack Obama entered his first full week in office Monday battling to win over Republicans hostile to his signature plan to haul the US economy out of a paralyzing recession.

Obama's 825-billion-dollar stimulus bill, which is set for debate in Congress this week, has become a litmus test of the new Democratic president's pledge to drain Washington of partisan rancour.

Before heading to

Capitol Hill to lobby for the bill in person Tuesday, Obama was Monday hoping to add a crucial name to his cabinet with the Senate expected to confirm his pick for Treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner.

Praising the former head of the New York Federal Reserve, Vice President Joseph Biden said on CBS programme "Face the Nation" Sunday: "I think he'll get a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate."

Despite criticism of

Geithner's failure to pay some US payroll taxes earlier this decade, the Senate's finance committee voted last week for his nomination, and the new Treasury boss will immediately have his work cut out.

In his first presidential radio address Saturday, Obama raised the specter of double-digit unemployment, a massive erosion of family incomes and an entire generation losing its potential if Congress does not act on the stimulus bill.—Internet



A crater caused by a bomb attack in Garma, 30 km (20 miles) northwest of Baghdad, 24 Jan, 2009. A suicide bomber drove a car loaded with explosives into a police checkpoint northwest of Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least five policemen and wounding six other police officers and seven civilians a week before the provincial elections, police said.—INTERNET

Iran tests air-to-air missile

TEHERAN, 26 Jan— Iran's state television says the country has successfully test-fired a heat-seeking air-to-air missile.

The Sunday report quotes air force chief Gen Hasan Shahsafi as saying the missile has a range of 62 miles, or 100 kilometres. The report did not elaborate. Iran periodically announces missile tests to demonstrate the self-sufficiency of its defence industries.

Iran launched an arms development program during its 1980-88 war with Iraq to compensate for a US weapons embargo. Since 1992, Iran has produced its own tanks, armored personnel carriers, missiles and a fighter plane.—Internet

Repair work gets underway at the Flyer Wheel in Singapore. The world's biggest observation wheel is set to reopen after a pre-Christmas fire that trapped passengers for hours and led to a one-month shutdown of the attraction. INTERNET



Singapore big wheel set to open after fire

SINGAPORE, 26 Jan—The world's biggest observation wheel was set to reopen on Monday after a pre-Christmas fire trapped passengers for hours and led to a one-month shutdown of the attraction, its operators said.

"We anticipate to be hosting passengers from 11:00 am (0300 GMT) onwards," a spokeswoman for the Singapore Flyer told AFP.

In a press release, the Flyer said it had obtained, late Sunday, the licence allowing it to operate again.

The Flyer said authorities issued their approval after German-based firm TUV SUD gave the attraction "a clean bill of health" following tests of a new backup system for turning the wheel. TUV SUD says it has tested amusement rides around the world. The Flyer's primary drive system has also been repaired and enhanced, the release said.

Internet

Iraq to pay 300 mln dollars to airline over Kuwait invasion

BAGHDAD, 26 Jan—Iraq and its national airline will pay 300 million dollars in compensation to Kuwait Airways for Saddam Hussein's invasion of the emirate almost 20 years ago, a government spokesman said on Sunday.

The payment is a final settlement that would end a row that has simmered since the seven-month occupation by Saddam's forces was ended by a US-led coalition in 1991.

"The Council of Ministers decided on Sunday to pay 300 million dollars to Kuwait Airways and the two parties agreed to put an end to the legal process," government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said. The precise terms of the deal were agreed after discussions between the Emir of Kuwait and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani at an economic summit of Arab states in the past week.

Kuwait Airways demanded 1.2 billion dollars in reparations from Iraq Airways for planes and equipment stolen during Saddam's 1990 invasion of the emirate.

The company used a Montreal court in August 2008 to stop 10 Bom-bardier CRJ900 aircraft ordered by Iraqi Airways from the Canadian company from being transferred, a decision that eventually prompted the settlement.—Internet



Firefighters spray water on burning row houses in Coatesville, Pa on late on 24 Jan, 2009. This was the latest in a string of suspicious fires in this Philadelphia suburb. At least 30 arsons have been reported in the area since the beginning of 2008, about half of them in the last three weeks. There was no clear information who was committing the crimes or why.—INTERNET

Latest in series of Pa fires claims 15 homes

COATESVILLE, 26 Jan— The latest in a string of suspicious fires in this Philadelphia suburb tore through a block of row houses, damaging 15 homes, leaving several dozen people homeless and prompting city officials to declare a state of emergency.

At least 30 arsons have been reported since the beginning of 2008, about half of them in the last three weeks. Police said the blazes may be part of a gang initiation, but there

was no clear information who was committing the crimes or why.

The latest fire was reported late Saturday at the rear of one house and quickly spread to adjacent homes in the Chester County community.

"This is an arson, no question about it," City Manager Harry Walker said Sunday.

The emergency declaration gives the city powers to deal with the situation without worrying about the budget, such as boarding

up the buildings, assigning police to protect them and helping the families involved, Walker said.

The fire came despite stepped-up police patrols and investigative help from county, state and federal agencies. Three people were arrested in December.

"A lot of people are scared," resident Marissa Martinez said as she watched smoke rise from the rubble. "I never thought things could come to this point."

Internet

Hunters with tame golden eagles pose for photos before a traditional hunting contest near the town of Karkaralinsk in central Kazakhstan on 23 Jan, 2009. Kazakhstan's national sport of Sayat — or hunting with golden eagles — is popular in the Central Asian state. Berkutchi, or golden eagle hunters, from all over the country arrived for the annual competition.

INTERNET



Economic forecasters see more job cuts ahead

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan — It's shaping up to be another lousy year for workers, with more companies expecting to cut payrolls in the months ahead. That's part of the latest outlook from forecasters in a survey to be released on Monday by the National Association for Business Economics that depicts the worst business conditions in the US since the report's incep-

tion in 1982. Thirty-nine percent predicted job reductions through attrition or "significant" layoffs over the next six months, up from 32 percent in the previous survey in October. Around 45 percent in the current survey anticipated no change in hiring plans, while roughly 17 percent thought hiring would increase.

The recession, which started in December 2007, and is expected to stretch into this year, has been a job killer. The economy lost 2.6 million jobs last year, the most since 1945. The unemployment rate jumped to 7.2 percent in December, the highest in 16 years, and is expected to keep climbing. "Job losses accelerated in the fourth quarter, and the employment outlook for the next six months has weakened further," said Sara Johnson, NABE's lead analyst on the survey and an economist at IHS Global Insight.

Internet

Internet

World's highest drug levels entering India stream

PATANCHERU, 26 Jan—When researchers analyzed vials of treated wastewater taken from a plant where about 90 Indian drug factories dump their residues, they were shocked. Enough of a single, powerful antibiotic was being spewed into one stream each day to treat every person in a city of 90,000. And it wasn't just ciprofloxacin being detected. The supposedly cleaned water was a floating medicine cabinet — a soup of 21 different active pharmaceutical ingredients, used in generics for treatment of hypertension, heart disease, chronic liver ailments, depression, gonorrhea, ulcers and other ailments. Half of the drugs measured at the highest levels of pharmaceuticals ever detected in the environment, researchers say. Those Indian factories produce drugs for much of the world, including many Americans.—Internet

New Zealanders see Asia more important than any other region

WELLINGTON, 26 Jan—Increasing number of New Zealanders believe that Asia is a region that is becoming more significant to their country than any other region, according to a new Asia New Zealand Foundation survey. The 2008 Perceptions of Asia report, released on Monday, showed that 75 percent of New Zealanders see the Asia region as "important" to New Zealand's future, up from 71 percent in 2007.

The Asia region is rated as "more important" than Europe (67 percent rated this region as "important") and North America (55 percent rated this region as "important"). Only the South Pacific region (including Australia) is rated as "more important" to New Zealand's future than Asia (86 percent of New Zealanders rate the South Pacific region as "important" to New Zealand's future). Respondents were also

asked to think about New Zealand in the next 10 to 20 years, and to indicate how much of a positive or negative impact various factors will have on New Zealand. Overall, New Zealanders see Asia as an important export market, think that Asia's economic growth will have a positive impact on New Zealand, see the benefits of free trade agreements between New Zealand and Asian countries.

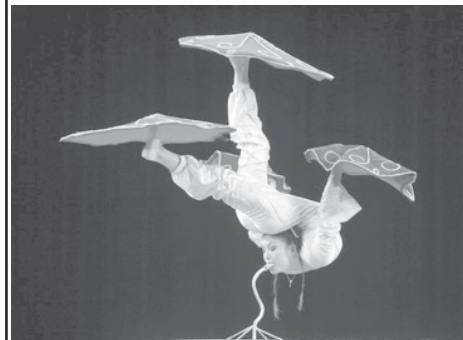
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NEWS ALBUM



A woman dressed as a mermaid dives to feed fish at the Gongti Richina Underwater World in Beijing. The fish are fed three times a day by a woman dressed as mermaid as additional entertainment for visitors.



A Chinese acrobat performs during an India-China cultural exchange programme in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata. The programme was organised by the Indian council for cultural relations and embassy of the People's Republic of China to strengthen the cultural bonds between the two countries.

Diamond ring lost in shoe, reunited with owner

A diamond ring that a South Florida department store sales associate found inside a shoe has been returned to its owner. Susan Ray said she thinks she lost her great-grandmother's engagement ring while she was looking at shoes at a Loehmann's store. A sales associate, Maria del Carmen Servin, found the piece of jewelry in a Cole Haan pump. Servin gave the ring to loss-prevention employees, and Ray soon contacted the store. Ray, a retired tax attorney, said the experience "made me really rethink how I think about people." For turning in the ring, Servin will be featured in a company newsletter and get a Loehmann's gift card. She will also receive \$10 from a store programme.

Man swaps empty lobster shell for crab legs

After he finished his lobster dinner, an upstate New York man apparently was still hungry for seafood so he swapped the lobster shell for crab legs — and now he faces a petit larceny charge. Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies said a 57-year-old man brought back a reassembled lobster shell to his local Price Chopper store and claimed the crustacean was spoiled. The store manager was about to let him trade the lobster for a \$27 bag of king crab legs when he discovered the lobster was just a shell. Deputies said the man ran from the store clutching the crab legs when he was confronted.

Atlanta thieves nab two bicycles from Jimmy Carter

Not even a former president is immune from thieves. Two bicycles belonging to Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, were snatched from inside the Carter Center near downtown Atlanta earlier this month. The couple likes to ride bicycles in nearby Freedom Park when they have free time. Peter Wicker, the owner of a local bike shop, donated the bicycles to the Carters in 2007 after seeing the poor condition of their old bikes, which had been brought in for repairs. Atlanta police say they have made no arrests. A spokeswoman for the Carters told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the couple is currently in China.

Broken windshield helps house cleaner win jackpot

A broken windshield on her son's car turned out to be a lucky break for an upstate New York house cleaner. State lottery officials introduced 55-year-old Pamela Fitch of Mechanicville as the person who won \$1 million on a Big Bucks instant ticket bought on 8 Jan at a Stewarts Shops convenience store in Saratoga County. Fitch, a self-employed house cleaner, said her son asked to her run to the store for him because his car windshield was broken. At the store, the clerk handed Fitch a Big Bucks ticket instead of the Jumbo Bucks instant ticket she asked for.



Parajet Skycar Expedition Leader Neil Laughton(L) and Chief Pilot Giles Cardozo pose with their flying car during a photocall in London. The Skycar team set off from London to Timbuktu—but the project immediately hit turbulence, as they have not received permission to take to the skies here.

Bago mountain range in Hlegu Township greening with teak and other plantations

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



Teak plantations thriving at Mahuya Forest Reserve of Hlegu Township Forest Department.

From 2004-2005 to 2008-2009 financial years, the Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry has been undertaking the greening of Bago mountain range, the establishment of teak and other tree plantations, the development of natural forests, the setting up of plantations in watershed

areas and the conservation of natural strains of forests in divisions, districts and townships.

Under the arrangement of Assistant Director U Than Oo of Yangon North District Forest Department, I left for Hlegu Township Forest Department to observe the establishment of forests in Taikkyi and Hlegu

townships. I met with Staff Officer U Soe Tint in Hlegu Township Forest Department. Afterwards, I, together with the Staff Officer, Senior Forester U Maung Maung Aye, Foresters U Myint Hlaing and U Han Win, Forest Rangers U Than Hlaing and U Sao Khin Win, went to Phaunggyi Forest Region Office and arrived at Ngamoeyeik Dam. Next, we proceeded to Mahuya Forest Reserve from Ngamoeyeik Dam, 18 miles from Hlegu, by boat of the department along Mahuya Creek.

At the block 55 of Mahuya Forest Reserve, we saw greening and thriving 400 acres of teak special plantation. Staff Officer U Soe Tint explained that although teak plantations are being grown, the soil is unfavourable for teak plantations, and therefore the workers were urged to nurture the forest plantations.

We visited No. 49 Block of Mahuya Forest Reserve and No. 80 Block of Paunglin Forest Reserve. We witnessed thriving 500 acres of teak plantation in Paunglin Forest Reserve established in 2005-06. Moreover, we saw a total of 625 acres of

commercial teak plantation set up in 2006-07 and 625 acres of teak plantation established in 2007-08. A total of 750 acres of teak plantations planted in 2008-09 are thriving at No. 100 block. From 2004-05 to date, 3,005 acres of teak plantations in total have been grown in Mahuya and Paunglin forest reserves.

Furthermore, oil Eugenia, Thitseint (Belleric myrobalan), ironwood tree, gum-kino and other trees have been planted on 1,850 acres of land at block Nos. 56, 57,

added plantations were grown at Mahuya and Paunglin forest reserves. A total of 2,000 acres of value-added plantations were established at Mahuya Forest Reserve from 2002 to 2004 and 7,000 acres of similar plantations at Paunglin Forest Reserve from 2005 to 2009.

The natural plant propagation was carried out at 1,000 acres of land at Paunglin Forest Reserve in 2005-06, 1,000 acres in 2006-07 and 500 acres in 2007-08. Ngamoeyeik Dam was built 100 yards

township. Moreover, 4,435 teak saplings were planted on both sides of the highway. In addition, a plan was laid down for growing of 20 hardwood saplings for every household in 2010-11. A total of 120,092 teak saplings and 23,000 saplings of other species were nurtured at Myoma nursery, Zero nursery and Yemon nursery of Forest Department and distributed to the local people.

In Hlegu Township, Paunglin, Mahuya and Kalihtaw forest reserves were established and



Hlegu Township Forest Department conserving 13,500 acres of trees at Paunglin Forest Reserve.

55 and 59 of Mahuya Forest Reserve from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Many deciduous forests and evergreen forests are located in Ngamoeyeik watershed areas. The ridges of hills are not steep, but long in the area of Mahuya Forest Reserve.

As 20,384 acres of forests were conserved at Paunglin Forest Reserve in Hlegu Township from 2005 to 2007, the greening and thriving forest plantations can be seen at present.

Moreover, the value-

downstream of the confluence of Mahuya and Ngamoeyeik creeks. Ngamoeyeik, Mahuya, Paunglin, Wanetchaung and Chaungma creeks flow into the dam. A total of 180,000 acre feet of water can be seen at 11,000 acre feet wetland area of Ngamoeyeik Dam.

In Hlegu Township, the Forest Department set a plan on growing of three teak plants for every household in wards and villages. Up to 30 November 2008, a total of 113,292 teak saplings were grown in the

Ngamoeyeik, Kalihtaw, Taunglonmyaung, Lagwinbyin, Mahuya and Paunglin dams were built.

Due to close supervision of Yangon Division and Yangon North District Forest Departments and utmost efforts of Hlegu Township Forest Department, Bago mountain range in the township is covered with thick and greening foliage.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 15-1-2009



Various crops grown as mixed-cropping at Block No. 55 of 400 acres watershed (special) plantation of Mahuya Forest Reserve in Hlegu Township.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets
Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed...

(from page 16)
Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Ministry of

Defence Brig-Gen Maung Maung Ohn and together with General Songkitti Jaggabatara were Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and Military Attache' Col Ekachai Harnpoonvittaya.

MNA



Vice-Chairman of SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara inspect the Guard of Honour.
(News on page 1)—MNA

Vice-Chairman of SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara.
(News on page 16)—MNA



Inter-Ministry
Women's
Volleyball tournament
continues

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—The first round-robin of Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Women's Volleyball Tournament 2009 continued here today.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population team won over the Ministry of Labour with 3-0, the Ministry of Cooperatives edged out the Ministry of Electric Power-1 with 3-0, Ministry of Finance and Revenue defeated the Ministry of Sports by 3-1 and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation won over Ministry of Industry-2 with 3-0.

MNA

Deputy Minister inspects Tapaing Hydel
Power Plant Project

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan — Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myo Myint inspected Tapaing-1 Hydel Power Plant Project, 30 miles north-east of Bhamo in Kachin State, on 22 January.

During the tour of

inspection, the deputy minister visited the site chosen to construct concrete dam and woks on construction of the dam. The project is being implemented by the Construction Group No 5. The deputy minister also inspected the progress of

the construction of diversion tunnel, intake channels No. 1 and No. 2 and earth works.

The power plant will be equipped with four 60-megawatt generators, and on completion, the plant will generate 240 megawatts.—MNA

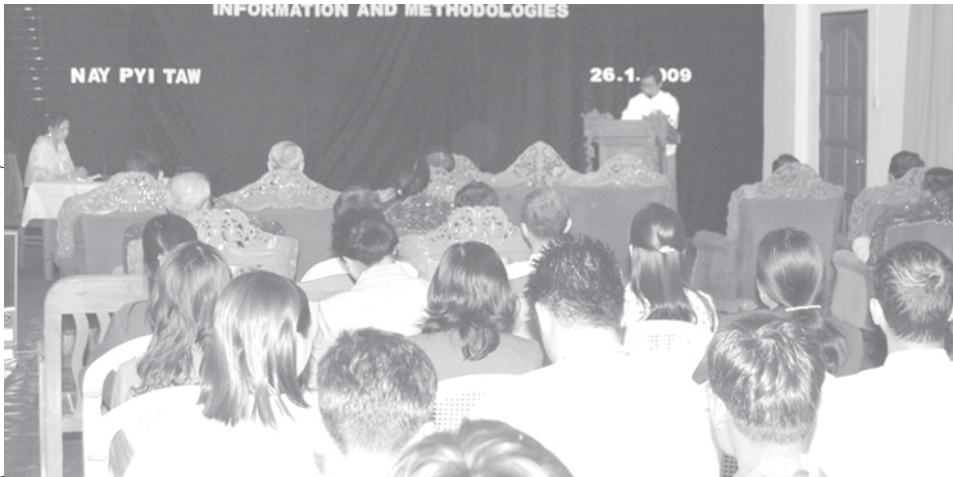
MRD, WHO conduct health Course

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan — A course on health research information and methodologies organized by Medical Research Department (Central Myanmar) and WHO, was opened at the Medical Research Department (Central Myanmar) here at 9 a.m. today. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe spoke on the occasion.

Present were Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General of Ministry of Health and 29 trainees of Departments, General Hospital (Nay Pyi Taw) and Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence.

Compiling proposals and seeking information about health research will be taught at the course.

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

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe speaks at the opening of workshop on health research information and methodologies.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San host luncheon in honour of Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan – Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San hosted a luncheon in honour of the goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara and wife at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, this afternoon.

Present were member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and their wives, senior military officers, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag, Defence Attache Colonel Ekachai Harnpoonvittaya and officials.

After the lunch, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Songkitti Jaggabatara exchanged gifts and so did their wives. Then they had documentary photos taken.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San host a luncheon in honour of Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara and wife at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko tours Patheingyi and Maubin Districts

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence presented cash assistance to the patients in Ngwehsaung People's Hospital and inspected the hospital on 24 January.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko met departmental officials, members of social organizations, officials of hotels and townsenders at the meeting hall of the General Administration Department. He looked into vegetables plantation and breeding of chickens, pigs and goats at the police station.

He inspected measures taken for the beauty and tidiness of hotels in the town.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and departmental officials visited Yuzana Group Ayeyawady Fisheries Ltd

and inspected production of feedstuff for fish, storage of raw materials and fish processing at Yankin hill ward in Patheingyi on 25 January.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko viewed sunflower plantation of farmer U Nyunt Yin at Zayatkwint village in Kyaunggon Township and cordially met with local people.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected quality of high-yield paddy and sample of rice and thriving sunflower plantation at farmer U Sein Win's plantations in Bawaing village in Pantanaw Township.

He viewed summer paddy field of farmer U Win Oo and plantation of Myanmar Billion Group Co Ltd at Zibiyukyun village in Nyaungdon Township.—MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin being welcomed at the reception by Indian Ambassador Mr Aloke Sen to mark 60th anniversary of the Republic Day of India.—MNA



Maj-Gen Ko Ko looks into thriving sunflower plantations in Bawaing village of Pantanaw Township.

MNA

Dry docks helping improve fishing of Taninthayi Division

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)



Ships and trawlers in dock for repairs and being built in the dry dock of Thida Dry Dock in Kawthoung.

Offshore and deep-sea fishing is the main business of Taninthayi Division. So, ship repairing and shipbuilding have become important part of the region's fishing.

Inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investment, national entrepreneurs have come to engage in ship repairing and building, thus saving foreign exchange on the business.

On the recent tour of Taninthayi Division to get facts about regional de-

velopment for articles, we dropped in Kawthoung. Under the arrangements of Chairman U Aung Tun Thein of Township Peace and Development Council, we visited the dry dock of Thida Fishery Co on the seaport in Shwepyitha, Kawthoung.

We found that many company-owned trawlers, cargo ships and sea-going ships were in dock for major repairs in the dockyard.

U Min Aung, dockyard in-charge as well as a nephew of proprietor U Tin Myint of Thida Fishery Co

told the Myanmar Alin Daily, "We established this dockyard in 2000 for the convenience of the ships of our country that had to undergo repairs in Thailand in the past. But, now many local workers no longer need to work in the neighbouring country, and they can work here. Moreover, we can save foreign exchange on shipbuilding and repairing."

We learnt that U Tin Myint is one of the national entrepreneurs who provide funds most for social and economic affairs of local people.

Kawthoung has about 1500 offshore and deep-sea trawlers, and U Tin Myint's dockyard is the busiest one in the region. The dockyard can withstand 200 tons of loads, and can repair 24

about 200 ships a year.

U Than Sin, the dockyard in-charge, said that they built the dockyard in 2005; and that previously, trawlers of Myeik got repaired in the port of Thailand.

We witnessed that several trawlers were being built in the wet dock in Pahtet Port. Wet docks do not work as much as dry docks. Lower iron parts of ships become rusty after months in the seawater, and sea mollusks destroy ships' wooden parts under seawater. So, a ship should be under repair once every six months.

Yangon has several dockyards. However, the trawlers of Taninthayi Division are mostly in dock for repairs in Myeik and Kawthoung.



Some trawlers and cargo ships under repair in Pahtet port in Kyunsu Township, on the other bank of Myeik.



A trawler is docked for repairs.



U Than Sin, in-charge of Pahtet Dock in Myeik.

vessels at the same time. So far, it has repaired nearly 1000 trawlers, cargo ships and large motorboats.

We also visited another dry dock in Pahtet Port, Kyunsu Township, on the other bank of Myeik. It can withstand 200 tons of loads, and can repair and build



U Min Aung, in-charge of Thida Dry Dock in Kawthoung.

Repairing deep-sea trawlers and vessels of Taninthayi Division in a short time, the docks along Taninthayi coast is part of the drive for improvement of fishing of the region.

Translation: MS
Myanmar Alin:
26-1-2009

India celebrates the Republic Day

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan—India's 60th Republic Day celebrations began here Monday morning with Defense Minister A.K. Antony paying homage to the heroes at the India Gate war memorial.

Antony was standing in for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is recuperating from heart surgery. This is the first time that a prime minister has been forced to skip a Republic Day parade, according to the Indo-Asian News Service.

India President Pratibha Patil saluted the marching contingents, accompanied by visiting Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the chief guest on the occasion.

Patil conferred 11 posthumous Ashok



Indian Air Force fighter jets fly in formation during India's Republic Day parade in New Delhi, capital of India, on 26 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Chakras, the nation's highest gallantry award in peacetime, on security personnel who died fighting terrorists in India controlled Kashmir district, Mumbai and New Delhi.

The parade began with a contingent of the 61st Cavalry. Overhead, four Mi-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force in a formation, showered rose petals on the hundreds of

spectators.

Following them were contingents of the three armed forces and the paramilitary forces.

The Republic Day of India is a national holiday of India to mark the adoption of the Constitution of India and the transition of India from a British dominion to a republic on 26 Jan, 1950.

Internet

Oxfam warns global food crisis likely to worsen

NAIROBI, 26 Jan—International agency Oxfam has warned that an urgent action is needed to prevent hundreds of millions more people slipping into hunger as a result of volatile food prices and increasing energy and water scarcity.

Oxfam said decades of under investment in agriculture coupled with the increasing threat of climate change mean that despite

recent price falls, future food security is by no means guaranteed, and in fact the situation could get worse. "Although global food prices have fallen in the last few months, they are not back to previous levels, and are likely to rise sharply again in the future. Furthermore, price volatility itself is a problem, and more needs to be done to address the underlying structural issue that cause

the chronic hunger affecting 1 in 6 people in the world today," Oxfam Kenya Country Director Philippa Crosland Taylor told journalists in Nairobi.

Oxfam's warning came a week after the government of Kenya declared the current food crisis a national disaster that could adversely affect millions of people in marginalized areas (arid and semi-arid, urban slums).—Internet



India's Agni III missile rolls past during India's Republic Day parade in New Delhi, capital of India, on 26 Jan, 2009. INTERNET



A man peers out from his lion dance costume during the opening ceremony for the Ditan Temple Fair in Beijing.—INTERNET

Ethiopia completes withdrawal of troops from Somalia

BAIDAO, 26 Jan—Somalia and Ethiopia have both confirmed the complete withdrawal of Ethiopia troops from the war-wrecked horn of African nation.

The last Ethiopian soldiers had left their base in the southern Somali town of Baidoa, a senior Somali government official said on Monday.

Baidoa is the seat of the Somali parliament and the last place in the country where the Ethiopian troops remained after two years in the country.

"I can confirm you that there is no single Ethiopian soldier in Baidoa today (Monday) and if what the insurgent forces were fighting was the foreign forces, they have now left the town and I see no reason for further violence," Mohamed Ibrahim Habsade, a senior Somali cabinet minister, told Xinhua in Baidoa, 245 km southwest of

Mogadishu.

He said he is aware that the insurgents, who are now surrounding Baidoa, have been threatening to enter the town since the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops in the early hours of Monday morning.

Habsade revealed that there are indirect talks with the insurgents for a peaceful resolution of the standoff, saying that local elders are mediating between the two sides. Meanwhile, Ethiopia confirmed on Sunday that it had withdrawn all of its troops from Somalia.

Bereket Simon, head of the newly-established Government Communication Affairs Office, told journalists that the country's defense force had been fully withdrawn from Somalia after successfully completing its mission in that country.—Internet

Australian PM says "no" to change Australian Day

CANBERRA, 26 Jan—Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on Monday rejected calls for changing the date of Australia Day, delivering a straightforward "no."

Australian of the Year Mick Dodson on Sunday called for Australia Day, which commemorates the landing of the First Fleet on Australian shores in 1788, to be moved, adding Jan. 26 represented a "day of mourning" for many of his people.

Rudd rejected the call on Sunday and reiterated his position on Monday at a citizenship ceremony in Canberra, saying he believed it was a day all Australians could celebrate.

"Those who have come to this land 200 years ago, those who are welcomed into the nation's family today. Indigenous Australians, non-indigenous Australians. We are all in this together," Rudd said.

Internet

Hamas offers one-year truce with Israel

GAZA, 26 Jan—Hamas movement has offered a one-year truce with Israel through indirect talks, sponsored by Egypt between the Islamic movement and Israel, a Hamas official said Monday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua on telephone that his movement accepts a one-year truce "with guarantees that Israel shows commitment to lift the siege and completely reopen crossings."

Talks are held in Cairo between Hamas official and senior Egyptian security officials on one hand, and between Israeli security officials and Egypt's intelligence chief Omer Suleiman on the other.

"The delegation in Cairo is authorized to only discuss the issues of the truce and reopening the border crossings," said the official, adding "other issues like the internal reconciliation would be discussed too." Secretary of Israeli Defense Ministry Amos Gilad, who met with Egypt's Suleiman recently, said that Israel wants a longer term truce with Hamas.—Internet



Dachshunds and a Chihuahua line the seawall as they wait to have their picture taken during the South Beach Dachshund Winterfest Saturday, 24 Jan, 2009 in Miami Beach, Fla.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (144)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (144) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DUBAI TRADER VOY NO (902)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUBAI TRADER VOY NO (902) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TONG JOO SHIPPING
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Dated: 27 January 2009

Crash kills Nigerian
footballers

ABUJA, 26 Jan — Police in Nigeria say 15 members of a local government football team have been killed in a road accident in central Plateau state.

The Nigeria Football Federation head, Mohamed Sanusi, said the team had been on their way to play a match in Abuja. A similar incident in the same area last month killed at least nine female football players.

Correspondents say Nigeria's roads are among the most dangerous in the world, killing thousands of people every year. Mr Sanusi said the team, FC Jimeta from north-east Adamawa state, had been heading to the capital for a professional league match when their bus was involved in an accident.

He told AFP news agency that 11 players had died at the scene while four others died in hospital. Two other injured players were said to be "on the danger list". "It is really another very sad day for Nigerian football," said Mr Sanusi. —Internet

Members of the Aboriginal community perform Woggan-ma-gule, or a meeting of the waters, a traditional smoking ritual with song and dance in Sydney's Botanical Gardens on 26 Jan , 2009, as part of Australia Day celebrations.—INTERNET



German man allegedly kills family with
ax, knife

BERLIN, 26 Jan—German police say a man appears to have used an ax and knife to kill his wife and two children on Saturday night.

Police in the city of Saarlouis near the French-German border say they arrived at the home to find the 47-year-old man heavily intoxicated and sitting next to the body of his murdered wife. The bodies of his 20-year-old stepdaughter and 6-year-old son were found upstairs.

His 40-year-old wife had been killed with an ax, while the stepdaughter and son were killed with a knife. Police said in a statement on Sunday that they arrested the man on suspicion of homicide. An 3-year-old son was also home when police arrived. He was uninjured in the attack. Police took him to a nearby hospital.

Internet



Visitors look at the models of Toyota Motor Corp vehicles at its gallery in Tokyo. Toyota's domestic production in 2009 will likely drop by 25 percent from the previous year, hit by sinking demand amid a deepening global recession, a report said on 26 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

India to work closely with Bangla on combating terrorism

DHAKA, 26 Jan—India today said it was determined to work closely with the new government in Bangladesh to widen the scope of bilateral co-operation, particularly on combating the menace of terrorism that has turned out to be the "major threat" to peace and stability in the region.

"Our leadership has reiterated our determination to work closely with the newly elected government of Bangladesh to further strengthen our bonds of friendship and widen the scope of our cooperation in days to come," the Indian High Commission said in a Republic Day statement here. The statement, signed by Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, pointed to terrorism as the "major threat" to peace and stability in the region among "many trans-national challenges" like climate change, energy and food security to threaten the developmental efforts.

Last stranded whale on
Perkins Island dies

HOBART, 26 Jan—The last surviving sperm whale stranded on an island off northwestern Tasmania died Sunday, Australian wildlife officials said.

The whale was one of a herd of 48 that stranded last week on Perkins Island.

The whales, many of them more than 30 feet long, were first spotted Thursday night. Five were still alive Friday but three died Friday night and a fourth died at about 2 pm Saturday, The Hobart (Tasmania) Mercury reported. Rescuers had given up hope for the whale early Sunday, the newspaper said, but Department of Primary Industries and Water spokesman Warwick Brennan said teams continued to give the whale palliative care until it died around 6 pm local time.

Brennan said the whale had no way to return to the sea.—Internet

"The brutal terrorist attack in Mumbai has shown that we need to resolutely rebuff such evil attempts that strike at our common civilisational roots. We remain determined to work with friendly countries like Bangladesh to address this menace," it said.

Internet

Study looks for possible leukemia link

LEI CESTER, 26 Jan — University of Leicester researchers are trying to determine whether consuming caffeine during pregnancy affects the risk of childhood leukemia.

Dr Marcus Cooke said that while childhood leukemia could be initiated by DNA alterations in the unborn child, it is thought that leukemia would only develop if there was another secondary trigger. There is currently no single proven cause of childhood leukemia, though exposure to radiation, or a rare response to a common infection, are thought likely to play a part, Cooke said.

“We want to find out whether consuming caffeine could lead to the sort of DNA changes in the baby that are linked to risk of leukemia,” Cooke said in a statement.

Cooke said there are currently no convincing links between caffeine and cancer risks, but studies have found a link between alterations to DNA sometimes found in newborn babies, and an increased risk of leukemia. Caffeine has been shown to cause these kinds of changes to DNA, Cooke added.

Scientists know caffeine can pass back and forth across the placenta — meaning the unborn baby will come in contact with caffeine consumed by the mother, Cooke said.

The study involves 1,340 pregnant women. A blood sample is routinely taken from each newborn baby’s heel and tested for DNA changes. By comparing any DNA changes to the levels of caffeine the mother consumed, the team will try to find out whether the two are linked. — *Internet*

Red makes men feel more amorous with women

ROCHESTER, 26 Jan — When wearing red, a woman may be more likely to score an invitation to the prom or be treated to an expensive outing, US researchers said. Two University of Rochester psychologists demonstrate that the color red makes men feel more amorous toward women — yet men are unaware of the role the colour plays in their attraction. Andrew Elliot, professor of psychology, and Daniela

Niesta, post-doctoral researcher said it may be no accident that red hearts are associated with Valentine’s Day.

To quantify the red effect, the study looked at men’s responses to photographs of women under a variety of color presentations.

In one experiment, test subjects looked at a woman’s photo framed by a border of either red or white and answered a series of questions, such as:

“How pretty do you think this person is?”

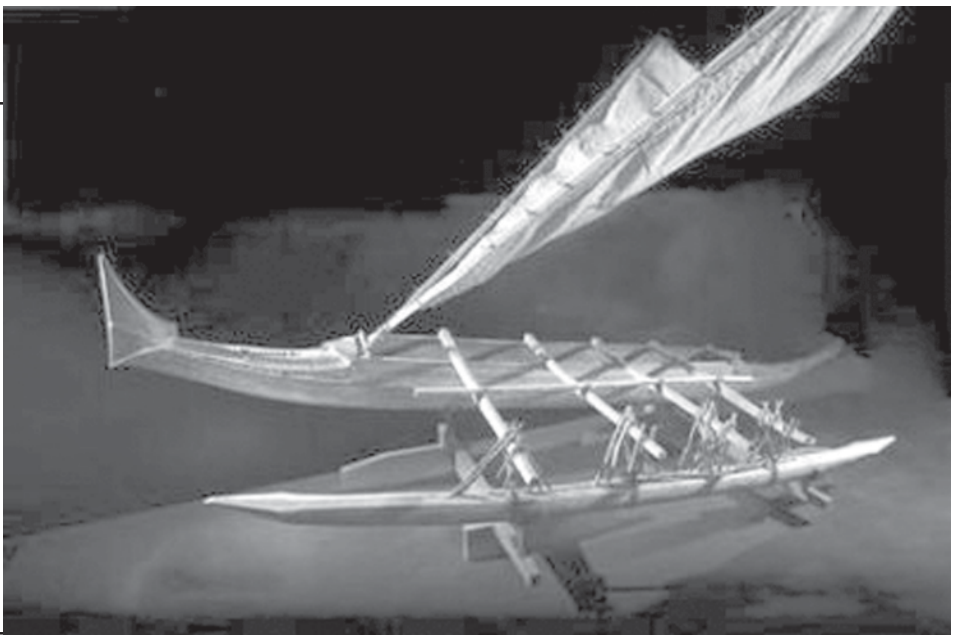
Other experiments contrasted red with gray, green or blue.

The study, published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, found under all conditions, the women shown framed by or wearing red were rated significantly more attractive and sexually desirable by men than the exact same women shown with other colours.

Internet

An undated hand-out photograph shows a seven-metre-long (22.9 feet) Tikopian outrigger canoe which is part of an exhibition called ‘Vaka Moana, Voyages of the Ancestors’ at Sydney’s Australian Maritime Museum.

INTERNET



Virus strikes 15 million PCs

LONDON, 26 Jan — A virulent computer virus has infected more than 15 million computers around the world so far, British experts say.

The Independent on Sunday reported that the worm — known as Downadup, Conficker or Kido — had contaminated 6 million PCs in the past three days alone. The newspaper said more than 3,000 British organizations, including hospitals and the Ministry of Defence, have received the virus.

Officials in Britain, the United States, Russia, China and India say they are waiting to see what the virus’s effects will be, if anything. — *Internet*

Three children die in Florida crash

MIAMI, 26 Jan — Three children were killed early Sunday when a sport utility vehicle slammed into the rear of a minivan stopped at a red light, Florida authorities said.

The 5:30 am EST crash occurred on US 1 in south Miami-Dade, The Miami Herald reported.

The children’s father, who was driving the minivan, suffered minor injuries and the driver of the SUV was hospitalized. There were no skid marks, said Lt Pat Santangelo of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Internet



A view of the solar eclipse in the city of Cape Town, South Africa, on 26 Jan, 2009. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and earth so that the sun is wholly or partially obscured. The eclipse, which started at 7am local time, lasted for two and a half hours. —INTERNET

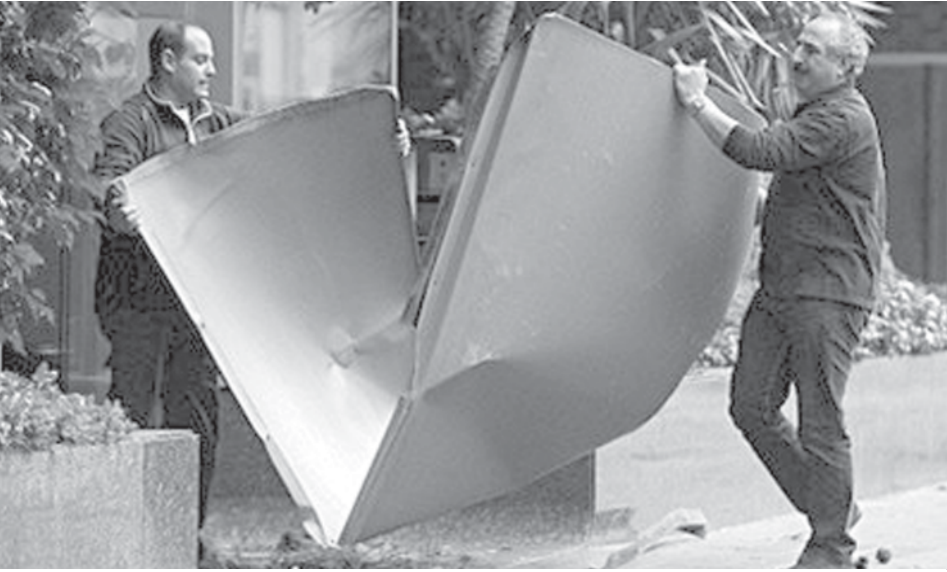
Emergency declared after Philly-area fire

COATESVILLE, 26 Jan — Officials in the arson-plagued Philadelphia suburb of Coatesville declared a state of emergency on Sunday, hours after a suspicious fire wiped out 14 row homes.

No one was injured in the 11:30 pm EST Saturday blaze that left dozens of people homeless, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The damage was estimated at nearly \$2 million, city spokeswoman Kristin Geiger said. Geiger said officials had not yet determined whether the fire was a case of arson because it burned so fiercely, but they labeled it “suspicious in nature and consistent with” 13 previous unsolved arsons in the city this month.

Internet



Bug threatens Calif citrus industry

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan — A bug that crossed the Mexican border at Tijuana in July threatens to bring catastrophe to California’s \$1.2 billion citrus industry, officials said.

State agriculture inspectors are intensifying their campaign against the Asian citrus psyllid, after the bug was observed last week in a San Diego neighborhood, the Los Angeles Times reported on Monday.

Agriculture officials said the bug was moving north at a rapid rate, although they believe California’s orange groves have not yet been contaminated by citrus greening disease, which the bug can spread.

The psyllid does not harm citrus trees but if it lands on a tree that is already infected with the bacterium that causes citrus greening disease and feeds on the diseased tree, it can then carry the pathogen to other trees. The disease — which is also called huanglongbing or yellow dragon disease — has already caused catastrophic damage to orange growing operations in Florida and Brazil, the report said. — *Internet*

Workers remove a sheet of metal which fell on the street after high winds hit Barcelona on 24 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET

SPORTS



Real Madrid's captain forward Raul (R) fights for the ball with Deportivo's Portuguese defender Ze Castro (L) during their Spanish league football match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Sunday. Madrid won 1-0.—INTERNET

Cardiff replay worries Arsenal manager

CARDIFF, 26 Jan—Arsene Wenger admits he is concerned at the prospect of a fixture back-log after Arsenal were held to a goalless draw in the fourth round of the FA Cup by Cardiff.

The north Londoners have seen their resources dangerously stretched by a spate of injuries to key attacking players such as Cesc Fabregas, Tomas Rosicky, Theo Walcott and Eduardo da Silva, and the prospect of shoe-horning another game into an already-crowded schedule drew a downbeat response from Wenger after Sunday's stalemate here at Ninian Park. "We could do without it, of course," the Arsenal manager said. "But let's not complain because we play football."

"It's one more game to play. If that's the price we have to pay to stay in the hat, we're happy to do it," added Wenger, whose team - if they see off Cardiff - will face either Premier League strugglers West Brom or another second-tier side in Burnley in the last 16.

Internet



Arsenal's Robin van Persie (front) vies for the ball against Cardiff City's Roger Johnson during their FA Cup fourth-round match at Ninian Park. INTERNET

Nadal, Williams through in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan —Serena Williams had a fortunate passage into the Australian Open quarter-finals on Monday when a distraught Victoria Azarenka retired ill while leading 6-3, 2-4.

In the men's top seed Rafael Nadal maintained his perfect record as he swept past Chile's Fernando Gonzalez and into the quarter-finals on Monday.

Nadal, who is yet to drop a set, dominated the 2007 finalist 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to advance to a last-eight clash with France's Gilles Simon as he seeks his first hard-court Grand Slam win.

Internet

Beckham hints at staying with AC Milan

ROME, 26 Jan—David Beckham left the door open to a possible long-term stay at AC Milan after scoring his first goal in Italian football in a 4-1 win at Bologna.

The victory kept Milan in the title hunt, trailing leaders and city rivals Inter Milan by six points.



Playing only his third match for Milan, Beckham wrapped things up on the hour mark with Milan's fourth, a rocket that beat Francesco Antonioli at his near post.

"I feel very good here. I arrived in a team that wanted me for years and I play for exceptional fans," said the former England captain. "I'll stay here until March and then we'll see. Right now I'm focussed only on my football."—Internet

AC Milan's British midfielder David Beckham

Djokovic calls for end to late nights

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan —Defending champion Novak Djokovic has called for "compromise" with Australian Open organisers after he was involved in another late night finish.



Defending champion Novak Djokovic

The third seed took the court at 11:10 pm on Sunday against Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis and did not wrap up until 2:26 am on Monday, with both complaining about the schedule.

"You have this unique excitement when you play the night matches. It's really fun. You make history by going into the 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 in the morning," Djokovic said.

Internet

Verdasco sends Murray packing

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan —pain's Fernando Verdasco sent British hope Andy Murray crashing out of the Australian Open when he won their fourth round clash 2-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Monday.

Verdasco shrugged off a lightning start from the fourth seeded Murray to

get back on terms and quieten the large crowd of British fans at the Hisense Arena and make his first Grand Slam quarter-final in 23 attempts.

Even after losing the third set 6-1, the 14th seeded Verdasco played far steadier than Murray over the closing two sets, keeping his cool as the Scotsman became more and more frustrated.

Internet



Fernando Verdasco of Spain gestures as he celebrates victory in his men's singles match against Andy Murray at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne.—INTERNET



Liverpool's Spanish forward Fernando Torres (L) vies with Everton's Segundo Castillo during the FA Cup Fourth round football match at Anfield.—INTERNET

Benitez tells Liverpool to sharpen up

LIVERPOOL, 26 Jan—Rafael Benitez admits Liverpool need to find a sharper cutting edge after his side's latest frustrating draw sparked a war of words with Everton boss David Moyes.

For the second time in a week Benitez was left fuming as Everton came to Anfield with a defensive mindset and managed to grind out a 1-1 draw, this time in the FA Cup fourth round. After snatching a Premier League draw against their Merseyside rivals on Monday, Everton held out again because Liverpool were unable to turn their possession into goals.

Benitez's frustration at Everton's cautious tactics, and his disappointment at the prospect of an unwanted replay at Goodison Park on February 4, boiled over after Sunday's match. "When you have a busy time it is better not to play too many matches but you have to do it," he said.

"I think we have important games coming now. It will be difficult but if everyone is available we will manage the squad. It could be better to get the tie finished in one game without a replay. At least we are still in the competition."—Internet

I'll never leave Barca vows Messi



Messi has said he will never leave Barcelona amid curious speculation Real Madrid want to sign the Argentine playmaker from their arch rivals.—INTERNET

MADRID, 26 Jan—Lionel Messi has said he would never leave Barcelona amid curious speculation Real Madrid want to sign the Argentine playmaker from their arch rivals.

Reports from Madrid suggested champions Real were preparing a sensational swoop but Messi laughed off the talk and pledged his future to Barcelona.

"I'll never leave Barca," the 21-year-old Messi told the club's official website. "I'll only leave if they throw me out. Barcelona is my home."

Messi is unlikely to be thrown out having scored 14 goals this season, including two in Saturday's 4-1 win over Numanica, as Barca sit 15 points clear of Real at the top of the Spanish first division.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta hit out at Real for using the media to try and unsettle the league leaders.

"They (Real Madrid) are relying on biased mass media institutions to spread these rumours," said Laporta. "It is an attempt to unsettle us and cover up their own problems. "The most important thing is that he (Messi) is happy here, this is where he has grown up, and he is showing this with his performances."—Internet



A recently-taken photo shows a man looking at a fiberglass sculpture of a cow which is part of the CowParade exhibition in central Madrid.—INTERNET

Fifth death from bird flu reported in south China

BEIJING, 26 Jan—An 18-year-old man died from bird flu on Monday in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the fifth human death from the H5N1 virus in China this year.

According to a press release posted on the website of the Ministry of Health, the man surnamed Liang fell ill on 19 Jan in Beiliu City of Guangxi.

Liang was transferred to Yulin Municipal Red Cross Hospital on 24 Jan. He died on Monday.

The young man tested positive for the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, according to the test result on Monday from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The ministry said it had reported the case to the World Health Organization and informed the health authorities of China's Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (27.1.2009) (Tuesday)

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

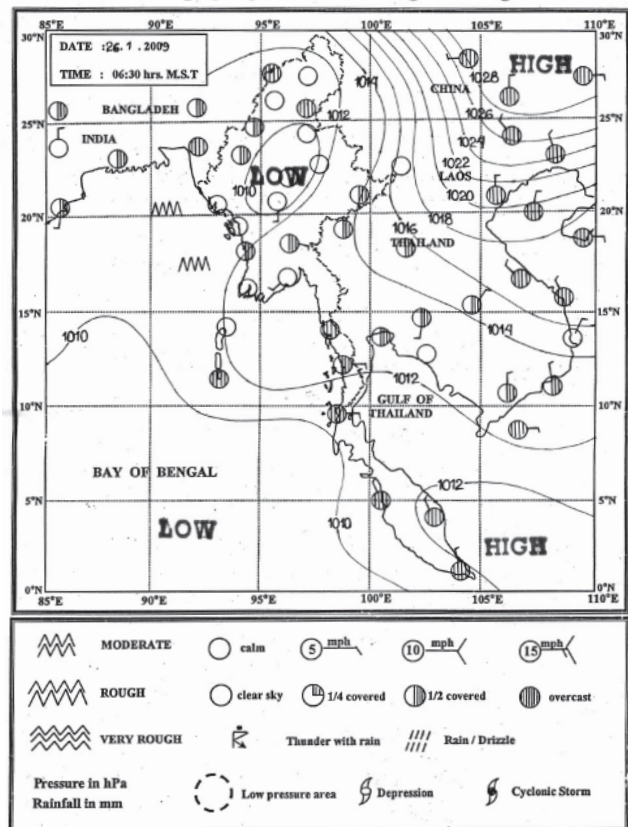
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * PaO Nationals Traditional Long Drum
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-III)
- * High Income Cauliflower
- * Mosaic Painting of Myanmar
- * Banana
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Abroad Transmissions

- * 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
- * Producing of Quality Medicine
- * Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (V)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * PaO Nationals Traditional Long Drum
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-III)
- * High Income Cauliflower
- * Mosaic Painting of Myanmar
- * Banana
- * Honourable Composer Myoma Nyein "Exchange of Smiles"
- * Extravagant Evidences of Myanmar Culture (Part-I)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 26 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, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsam and Loilem (3°C) each and Lashio (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 25-1-2009 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 26-1-2009 was 65°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-1-2009 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 25-1-2009 was (9.5) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 26-1-2009 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 Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 25-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27th January 2009: Likelihood of isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan State, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-1-2009: Generally fair weather.



Tuesday, 27 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. Nice and sweet song

- 7:55 am**
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am**
6. Song of yesteryear
- 8:15 am**
7. “တန်ဖိုး”
(ညီညီနေနိုင်၊ လှိုင်ဖြူဖြူထွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)
- 8:20 am**
8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Song of national races
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm**
2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:25 pm**
3. “တစ်လောကလုံးလင်းပါစေ”

- (မြေတိဦး၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်း၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ဝါဝါအောင်၊ ဧကဖူးပွင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)
- 4:40 pm**
4. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 4:55 pm**
5. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာဘာသာရပ်) (အပိုင်း-က)
- 5:30 pm**
6. Songs to uphold national spirit
- 5:40 pm**
7. နမ္မတီးတံတား (ကလု)
- 5:45 pm**
8. Musical programme

- 6:00 pm**
9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
11. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:55 pm**
12. ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့.
- 7:20 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်” (အပိုင်း-၂၂)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received a visiting Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara of Thailand at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 11:45 a.m. today.

Also present on the occasion together

with Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of

(See page 8)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife see off Thai goodwill delegation



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents documentary photo album of goodwill visit to Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan — Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songkitti Jaggabatara and wife on a goodwill visit in Nay Pyi Taw at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, left here for Yangon by special flight this evening.

Thai delegation arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport from Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in a motorcade and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party welcomed them.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented documentary photo album of the goodwill visit to the Supreme Commander of Royal

Thai Armed Forces.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the Thai Supreme Commander posed for documentary photos at the lawn of Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

The Thai goodwill delegation was seen off by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and their wives, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, and senior military officers and officials.

MNA