

Patirupadesavaso ca, to dwell in suitable locality; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects Nawaday model farm of Yangon Command



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects chicken farm of Yangon Command. — 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

YANGON, 16 Jan—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military officers and departmental officials, visited Nawaday model plantation of Yangon Command this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected thriving physic nut plants, dried physic nut seeds, and cold season crops including peas, radish, papaya, mango, gourd and gave necessary instructions on agricultural works.

He looked into the poultry farm and goat farm and called on the officials to make efforts for progress in the agriculture and livestock

farming.

So far, the model farm has grown 1,580 physic nut plants and 10,000 grafts and Yangon Command has grown crops on 12,594 out of the targeted acres 13,058.

Nawaday model farm has six bamboo-trestles of gourd, 110 papaya plants, 250 egg-plants, six bamboo-trestles of French bean, six rows of mustard, six rows of watercress, plantations of Chinese kale, carrot, lady's finger, amaranth, chilly, roselle, taro, coconut, betel nut, drumstick, Paukpanphyu (sesbania grandiflora), mango (seintalone), cashew, teak and mahogany.

And it raises 2,000 pigs, 5,000 chicken of local species, 2,500 layers and 45 goats.

MNA

Antarctica ice loss faster than ten years ago

The western part of Antarctica is shedding ice much faster today than it was just ten years ago, according to new satellite measurements.

The measurements, which surveyed the coasts of nearly the entire continent, suggest that climate models underestimate how quickly Antarctica responds to ongoing global warming, said study co-author Jonathan Bamber of the University of Bristol in England.

Many past studies have tried to estimate how much ice Antarctica is losing.

But the new study is the first to show that this loss is accelerating, at least in western Antarctica and the Antarctic Pe-

ninsula, the researchers say.

"In all the ice sheet models we have at present for Antarctica, things happen very slowly," Bamber said.

"[But] we're seeing things happen rather

quickly."

They found that for Antarctica overall, the ice loss increased about 75 percent over the ten-year period, from 112 gigatons of ice per year in 1996 to 196 gigatons of ice per year in 2006.

As to whether Antarctica will lose or gain ice as global warming proceeds, the measurements disagree with existing climate models that suggest.

Internet



Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 17 January, 2008

Eco-tourism with promising future

Tourism industry is a successful business in the world. Asia and Pacific region including Myanmar has become a major destination for tourists. They can enjoy scenic beauty of nature, snow-capped mountains and beautiful beaches and so there are good prospects in the tourism industry in the country. Tourism has brought economic benefits to many countries through job opportunities and income.

Most of the tourists visiting Myanmar take special interest in artistic works of the structures and antiques in Bagan archaeological region. Moreover, Indawgyi Lake and Innlay Lake with rich biodiversity, Moeyungyi, Shwesehtaw and Mainmahlakyun Sanctuaries, Hukaung Tiger Wildlife Sanctuary and Khakaborazi National Park are the places of interest for tourists.

Concerted efforts are to be made for development of eco-tourism as the country has a lot of historic buildings or landmarks, culture, natural beauty and wildlife that attract tourists.

Po Kya Elephant Camp in Toungoo timber extraction region in Bago Division (East) is suitable for eco-tourism industry. It has been a timber extraction base camp for 20 years. Tourists can enjoy the beauty of forest reserve and natural beauty of its environs.

The camp has well-furnished accommodation and tourists can take elephant ride, observe activities related to the elephants, visit villages near the streams where mahouts live and study biodiversity in the area.

Tourist arrivals reach its peak in this season. Endeavours are to be made for development of eco-tourism. It is necessary for tour operators to provide better transportation and accommodation and services of international standard for the tourists. By doing so, Myanmar tourism industry will surely develop.

Basic education schools in Paletwa inspected

YANGON, 16 Jan—Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department U Aye Lwin inspected measures taken for ensuring high pass rates of basic education schools in Paletwa Township, Chin State, on 12 January.

He had a meeting with education staff of Paletwa Township at Basic Education High School in the township. He instructed the teachers to observe the educational rules and regulations, apply pedagogical aids and lab equipment in accordance with the syllabuses, and systematic nurturing of students from primary level for high pass rate.

The director-general presented exercise books and pencils to the students of the township.

Next, he inspected progress of building of a new building of Paletwa BEHS and other schools in the township.—MNA

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

PBANRDA Minister attends opening of courses

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the opening ceremony of Advanced Administration Course No 16, Computer Course No 2 and International Relations Course No 6 held at the the ministry, here, on 14 January morning and made an opening speech on the occasion.

A total of 80 trainees are attending 12-week courses. Thirty are attending Advanced Administration Course No 16, 30, Computer Course No 2 and 20, International Relations Course No 6.—MNA



CEC Member goes on inspection tour of Ingapu

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan —CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung made a visit to Zeyathukha monastery on 12 January. At the monastery, he paid homage to Chairman of Ingapu Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Maha Saddhama-jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Jevatadhamma, presented provisions and cash donations to hold the examination in recitation of Buddhist Sculpture.

Arriving at Kantha monastery of Oatshitkon village in Ingapu Township on the following day, he and officials concerned paid homage to State Ovadacariya Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Ingapu Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Javata and donated provisions to the Sayadaw.

After attending opening of new school building of Tatsu village Basis Education Primary School, the CEC Member and party as well as wellwishers presented cash donations towards school funds. The new school was built at a cost of K 9.6 million.

Similarly, they attended opening of new school building at Thanpin-chaung village Basic Education Primary School and presented cash donations towards school funds.

Following the inspection of renovation of Mahathiwa Pagoda in Htoogyi village, they sought advice from the Sayadaw and discussed renovation measures with officials concerned and donated cash and provisions to members of the Sangha.

The next day they attended the opening

ceremony of Kanyintapin bridge (Mamya creek crossing bridge) and inspected it. It is 235 feet long, 14 feet wide and 45 feet high. It was built with the contributions of the State and Township Development Affairs.

After looking into

progress in constructing new building of Pyokon village Basic Education Primary School, the CEC Member and party provided K 8.1 million, three tons of timber and galvanized iron sheets for building the school.

MNA

Bus conductor killed in bomb blast

YANGON, 16 Jan—A bomb exploded at about 8.45 am today on highway passenger bus with number plate 5Kha/3644 while it was being parked for the passengers to have breakfast at Sagaing Lay Malar restaurant on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near 68th mile post in Pynpongyi Village Bago Township.

The bus was on its way from Kyaukkyi to Yangon and was driven by Tun Win Lat.

Bus conductor Lwin Soe, 35, son of U Pu of Kwingyaung Village in Kyaukdaga Township was killed in the bomb explosion that took place on the rear part of the bus.

Officials concerned are providing assistance and investigating the case to expose the bombers.

MNA

Russia restrict visas for British Council staff

Moscow, 15 Jan—Russia announced on Monday it will not issue new entry visas to staff working in the British Government's cultural offices in two regions, sharpening a row that has soured already-poor relations.

Russia ordered the British Council to halt work at the two regional offices from 1 January in a move both sides have linked to a diplomatic feud over the murder of Alexander Litvinenko, a

Russian emigre critical of the Kremlin.

Britain has called the Russian order illegal and on Monday the two offices, in St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg, resumed work after the long New Year break, *Reuters* correspondents in both cities said.

Russia's Foreign Ministry summoned British Ambassador Tony Brenton on Monday and soon after issued a statement blasting Britain for defying the order and

keeping its offices open.

"Russia views such actions as an intentional provocation aimed at inflaming tensions in Russian-British relations," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted on its www.mid.ru website.

"The Russian side will not issue visas to new employees sent to work in the (British) consular offices of St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg to carry out British Council work," the statement said.

MNA/Reuters

Thai election winning party to reveal coalition govt

BANGKOK, 16 Jan — Thailand's People Power Party (PPP), winner of last month's general election, is ready to reveal its coalition government by this weekend ahead of next Monday's convening of Parliament, PPP's secretary general Surapong Suebwonglee said on Tuesday.

"As the convening of

Parliament approaches, it is opportune to outline the formation of the coalition government and related political activities," he was quoted by local news network *The Nation* as saying, noting that the unveiling of the coalition should happen either on Friday or Saturday.

Surapong reaffirmed that the party leader

Samak Sundaravej will be the sole candidate for the position of Prime Minister. He also hinted that the PPP deputy leader Yongyuth Tiypairat might be nominated for the position of House speaker even though he has yet to clear his name in connection with the alleged electoral fraud.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya Govt, opposition face off in Parl

NAIROBI, 16 Jan — Kenya's Government and opposition crossed swords in Parliament on Tuesday, arguing and shouting over the vote for a new speaker in the first session since the disputed re-election of President Mwai Kibaki.

Roads were closed outside and riot police ringed the building in downtown Nairobi as Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga entered Parliament at the same time, without greeting each other.

It was the first time they had been present in the same room since the disputed 27 December vote.

Pro-Kibaki legislators stood up when the President came in, while opposition members of Parliament stayed seated.

In the 222-seat Parliament, the opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), which says Kibaki stole the vote by electoral fraud, commands the highest number of seats, 99. — MNA/Reuters

Time bomb wounds 11 in Thai south

BANGKOK, 16 Jan—A time bomb hidden on a motorcycle wounded 11 people seriously at a busy market in Thailand's south on Tuesday, police and hospital officials said.

The bomb, weighing several kilos (pounds), also left 28 people with minor injuries in Yala Province, one of three far south provinces near the Malaysian border which have borne the brunt of four years of separatist insurgency.

"This is clearly an attempt to intimidate people, intended to send a message that the authorities cannot protect them," army spokesman Colonel Acra Tiprach said.

The bomb went off a day after eight soldiers were killed and two wounded in ambushes by suspected separatist militants in neighbouring Narathiwat Province.

MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, left, talks with Cuba's acting President Raul Castro at the Revolution Palace in Havana, on 15 Jan, 2008.— INTERNET

Attack at luxury hotel in Afghan capital kills four

KABUL, 16 Jan — Militants in an explosion and firing attack at a luxury hotel in Afghan capital Kabul killed four hotel employees and injured six other people Monday evening, the Interior Ministry said.

Afghan Interior Ministry Spokesman Zamarai Bashari confirmed that suicide explosion and gun-fighting went off at Serena Hotel in the central city but did not give the identities of the casualties.

The incident took place at around 6:15 pm (GMT 1345) in Serena Hotel, a five-star one usually frequented by foreigners and dignitaries and several

bombing bangs had been heard across the city.

Bashari said the hotel now is under full control of security personnel.

Local TV channel reports and witnesses earlier said that some

armed men after firing with guards at the hotel gate, killing one guard, entered the compound and after that there was a huge explosion and gun-firing inside the hotel.

MNA/Xinhua



Displaced Kenyan children play whilst their mother prepares food next to the wooden stables normally used by cattle and horses but where they now live, at a camp for the displaced at the show ground in Eldoret, Kenya, on 15 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



The body of a giant sperm whale is seen on a beach near Songxia port in Changle, Fujian Province on 15 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Car bomb hits police patrol in northern Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 16 Jan—A car bomb explosion targeted a police patrol near the city of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh Province, on Monday, wounding six people, provincial police source said.

"A car bomb parked in the Ghizlany area, south of Mosul City, near a police patrol, wounding three policemen and three civilians," Brigadier Abdul Kareem al-Jubouri, head of Nineveh's police operations office, told *Xinhua*.

The blast also damaged a police vehicle along with several civilian cars, Jubouri said.

MNA/Xinhua

Syria expects more ALSG's efforts on Lebanon crisis

DAMASCUS, 15 Jan — Syria said on Sunday that it was waiting for the Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa to resume his efforts on pushing forward an Arab initiative aimed at ending the ongoing presidential crisis in Lebanon.

"The Arab plan is clear in its adoption of a no winner no loser stand which puts Lebanon on the road of health and stability because it will be the only winner," a Foreign Ministry official

source was quoted as saying by the official SANA news agency.

Moussa left Beirut Saturday after his four-day-long marathon talks with Lebanon's rival factions without a breakthrough in installing the three-point plan endorsed in Cairo last Sunday. The three-point plan aimed at immediately electing Lebanese Army Commander General Michel Suleiman as Lebanese president, proceeding to form a

national unity government and drafting a new electoral law.

Lebanon is facing today the most critical situation since the 1975 civil war which wrecked the country for 15 years.

Lebanese presidential seat has been vacant since former president Emile Lahoud ended his term on 24 November, and the sharply divided Lebanese Parliament has delayed the elections for twelve times without a consensus.

MNA/Xinhua



Defeated French Socialist Party Presidential candidate Segolene Royal (C) applauds next to Socialist candidate for Strasbourg Roland Ries (L) during a campaign visit for the upcoming municipal elections in Strasbourg on 15 Jan, 2008. — INTERNET

Clinton battles to keep US Black support

COLUMBIA (South Carolina), 15 Jan — Faced with potential loss of Black support, Democratic contender Hillary Clinton said on Sunday her chief US presidential rival Barack Obama was distorting her comments on race.

Democrats face a major nominating test on 19 January in South Carolina, where blacks form a major voting bloc

for the party. Clinton has been criticized for recent comments that some interpreted as giving President Lyndon Johnson more credit for advancing civil rights than Martin Luther King.

"Dr King didn't just give speeches. He marched. He organized. He protested," Clinton said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"And he campaigned for political leaders

including Lyndon Johnson because he wanted someone in the White House who would act on what he had devoted his life to achieving."

"The Obama campaign is deliberately distorting this," the New York senator said of the man who is her main competition for the Democratic presidential nomination in the November election. —MNA/Xinhua



Dignitaries and workers watch as the last piece of Richmond Olympic Oval's roof is lifted to be set in place during a ceremony in Richmond, south of Vancouver, British Columbia, on 15 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Colombian guerillas kidnap six tourists

BOGOTA, 15 Jan — Colombian guerillas kidnapped six tourists travelling by boat on a remote river a few days after freeing two high-profile hostages in a deal brokered by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, authorities said. The hostage release has fuelled hopes for an accord with the Marxist guerillas, but they are still holding hundreds of captives for ransom or political leverage, including French Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt and three Americans.

The six Colombian tourists were kidnapped on late on Sunday afternoon when rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, intercepted their boat in Choco Province, a jungle region on the Pacific coast, the Navy said. —MNA/Reuters

India's Andaman Islands hit by 6.0 quake

SINGAPORE, 15 Jan — A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck India's remote Andaman Islands on Monday, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said. The quake was centred 47 kilometres (29.2 miles) from Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman islands, the USGS said on its website. The depth was given as 47 kilometres. — MNA/Reuters

Kenya police clash with opposition protesters, 2 killed

BEIJING, 16 Jan — Two men were killed when Kenyan police clashed with protesters as they rallied to oppose against President Mwai Kibaki's disputed re-election in Kisumu, Reuters quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Police in Kisumu shot in the air and used teargas and batons to disperse a 1,000-strong crowd. Two men were shot dead, witnesses said. A Reuters cameraman saw a corpse in the street, with bullet wounds in the back and side. —Internet



Kenyan riot police chase people in central Nairobi, Kenya, on 16 Jan, 2008. Police fired tear gas and bullets to disperse protesters in several Kenyan cities at the start of three days of opposition rallies that threatened to plunge the nation's streets back into postelection violence.

At least one person died. —INTERNET

Friendly fire kills two Dutch soldiers in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 15 Jan — The Dutch Defence Ministry confirmed Sunday that two Dutch soldiers were killed by fellow soldiers in friendly fire incidents.

Earlier the ministry said that the two soldiers, who died in southern Afghanistan this weekend, were killed by opposing militant forces.

"I feel terrible having to tell you that it is highly probable that they died as a result of friendly fire," General Dick Berlijn, the top Dutch military commander, said in a statement.

"Darkness, the weather conditions and the confused situation" played a role in the mistake in the southern Afghan Province of Uruzgan, the statement said. A third Dutch soldier was also badly wounded in the incident and had both legs amputated.

MNA/Xinhua



Lebanese police secure the area at the site of explosion in Beirut, Lebanon on 15 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Bangladesh's 4th airline launches operation Monday

DHAKA, 15 Jan—Bangladesh's fourth airline, Best Aviation, launched its domestic operation Monday, with an objective of grabbing the major share of the aviation market, local newspaper *The Financial Express* reported.

Best Aviation, majority controlled by Kuwait's Aqeeq Aviation Holding, started its commercial flights between the capital Dhaka and the southeastern port city of Chittagong, its spokesman Titu Siddiqui said.

"We will have 14 flights a week in the Dhaka-Chittagong route and our tickets will cost at least 15 per cent less than our main competitors," Siddiqui said.

The civil aviation authority also granted Sunday the Best Aviation the permission to fly to Indian city of Chennai, south China city of Kunming and Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, he said.

"We hope with the 118-seaters two *Boeing 737-200* aircraft, we can give better services than any of our competitors," he added. The move is the first major push by the Kuwait-based Aqeeq to grab the rapidly expanding Bangladesh's aviation market. It has already leased one *Boeing 737-200* aircraft and will add another to its fleet on 15 January. —MNA/Xinhua

China, Britain to discuss financial turbulence

LONDON, 15 Jan—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Chinese leaders will urge reform of the international economic system when they discuss financial turbulence during Brown's coming visit, a Chinese diplomat said on Monday.

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he expected Brown's trip to lead to some commercial contracts but not on the scale of the near 30 billion US dollars of business that French President Nicolas Sarkozy wrapped up during his trip to China last November.

"In order to address the financial disturbances ... I think they will have a very frank discussion," the diplomat said. "Both Chinese leaders and Prime Minister Gordon Brown will emphasize the necessity to reform or to improve the current international economic system to address major economic issues including the financial disturbances that happened last year," he said.

Brown plans to visit China and India soon. Financial cooperation, trade and the economy were also on the agenda for Brown's discussions with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, the diplomat said.—MNA/Reuters

China, India vow to expand trade, economic cooperation

BEIJING, 15 Jan—Chinese and Indian senior officials on Monday pledged to strengthen trade ties and economic cooperation in fields of construction, investment, financial services, technology, education and tourism.

Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu, who attended the China-India Economic, Trade and Investment

Cooperation Summit held in Beijing, welcomed the visit of Manmohan Singh, hailing the overall growth of ties between the two countries, especially in economic and trade cooperation.

The bilateral trade volume has reached 38.7 billion US dollars in 2007, about 33 times the figure in 1995, with an annual growth of 34 per cent. China has become the second largest trade partner of India, and India the tenth largest trade partner of China, Hui said.

The investment between China and India has been expanding, and contracted projects keep increasing. Hui encouraged communication and exchange

between industry and commerce circles of the two countries, and also called for cooperation in other countries.

"We are making efforts to expand and deepen the economic and trade ties between China and India. We also hope to develop new ways of cooperation between the two countries," Hui said.

China and India, both enjoy a long tradition of civilization, together topped the list of fast growing developing countries. As economic globalization intensifies, the pursuit of peace, development and cooperation is the dominant trend of the time, Hui said.

MNA/Xinhua



The Cadillac CTS-V sport sedan makes its debut at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the United States, on 14 Jan, 2008.—XINHUA

Three Cos to restore rail network of Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 15 Jan—Three companies chosen by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport have announced they will begin a joint venture to restore Cambodia's rail network, reported local Khmer-language newspaper the *Rasmei Kampuchea* on Monday.

Thai firm Nawarat and French companies TSO and AS were officially given the rights to rebuild the network at an official signing ceremony between a TSO representative and Public Work and Transport Minister Sun Chanthol on 11 January. It will take approximately 23 months to restore the 264-kilometre Phnom Penh-

Sihanoukville section and around 22 months for the 386-kilometre Phnom Penh-Poipet route, according to Yoet Bunna, a project study official.

Some 400,000 sleepers will be needed, of which 300,000 will be used for the track connecting Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, Bunna said, adding that existing steel ties will also be used.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian nomadic tribal women look on, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, during festivities surrounding the festival of Pongal or harvest festival.

INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

UN aims boost creative industries in poorer states

GENEVA, 15 Jan—The United Nations launched a drive on Monday to "open the eyes" of governments in poorer countries to the huge export potential of creative industries ranging from art to fashion.

Developing economies should take their lead from the example of China which in 2005 became the top world exporter of creative goods, said UN trade and development agency (UNCTAD) Secretary General Supachai Panitchpakdi.

"If effective policies are in place, the creative economy has the potential to foster economic growth, job creation and exports earnings," he told a two-day meeting of ministers and officials from Africa, Asia and Latin America. —MNA/Reuters





Workers use copper stamps to imprint patterns onto traditional Javanese textile called batik at a workshop in Solo, Indonesia’s Central Java province January 16, 2008. A number of textile companies plan to build new garment factories with a total investment of \$122 million this year, Benny Soetrisno, the chairman of Indonesian Textile Association (API) said last week.—INTERNET

EU to toughen environment criteria for biofuels

BRUSSELS, 15 Jan — The European Union is to set tougher environmental criteria for biofuels after acknowledging that the drive for transport fuels produced from crops has done unforeseen damage, the European Commission said on Monday.

Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said in a BBC interview the EU had initially underestimated the danger to rainforests and the risk of

forcing up food prices from its policy of setting binding targets for the use of biofuels.

“We have seen that the environmental problems caused by biofuels and also the social problems are bigger than we thought they were. So we have to move very carefully,” he said.

“We have to have criteria for sustainability, including social and environmental issues,

because there are some benefits from biofuels,” Dimas said.

EU leaders set a mandatory target last March that at least 10 per cent of transport fuel should come from biofuels by 2020.

Dimas told the BBC it would be better to miss the target than meet it by harming poor people or damaging the environment.

MNA/Reuters

China’s Shengli oil field produced 27m tons in ’07

BEIJING, 15 Jan—Crude oil output at China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec)'s Shengli oil field in 2007 stood at 27.708 million tons, surpassing its annual target, said Sinopec on its website Monday.

Shengli, located in eastern Shandong Province, is the country's second largest oil field

after the northeastern Daqing oil field.

Statistics from Sinopec revealed that the oil field's output in 2007 was 120,800 tons above the plan, accounting for two-thirds of the total crude oil production of Sinopec, the country’s largest oil refiner. During the past 40 years, its aggregate output of crude oil reached

880 million tons.

Cumulative production of natural gas topped 39.816 billion cubic metres by the end of 2006.

The company said it was using enhanced recovery techniques at Shengli to improve production.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian Government assets frozen in France

Moscow, 15 Jan — French authorities have frozen the assets of some Russian Government bodies over a claim by a Swiss trading firm, Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported Monday.

Since 1993 the Swiss trading firm Noga has applied for the seizure of Russian property abroad, claiming that the Russian Government owes millions of US dollars to it under food-for-oil contracts the two sides signed in 1991 and 1992. Citing a French bailiff's order, the news agency said that French authorities last week ordered to freeze bank accounts of some Russian Government-linked entities, including RIA Novosti itself, handled by a French subsidiary of Russia’s VTB bank. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian officials under probe for alleged abuse of power

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Jan — The Malaysian Tourism Ministry is investigating two tourism officials in South Korea in connection with an alleged abuse of power in the production of a video clip to promote Visit Malaysia Year costing 850,000 ringgit (250,000 US dollars), Tourism Minister Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said here on Monday.

The internal probe began two weeks ago to find out whether the allegation was true, the

minister said Monday at the Kuala Lumpur Tower.

“We will discuss with the Tourism Malaysia director-general whether we need to suspend them from regular duties until the investigation has been completed,” he said.

“If the allegation is found to have basis, perhaps they will face action,” the national news agency Bernama quoted him as saying.

The Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB), or better known

as “Tourism Malaysia”, is aimed to promote Malaysia as an outstanding tourist destination. It strive to increase awareness of Malaysia’s unique wonders, attractions and cultures.

According to a local news portal, the two officials have abused their power and benefited from the production of the video clip which portrays attractive destinations in Malaysia for the purpose of promoting the country in South Korea.

MNA/Xinhua



Bulgarian dancers, called “kukeri,” perform a ritual dance in the village of Elov Dol, some 50 kms southwest of Sofia.—INTERNET

French Areva renews uranium price deal with Niger

PARIS, 15 Jan—French nuclear giant Areva renewed its deal on uranium prices with Niger on Sunday in a bid to restore ties broken by

accusations that the giant was financing a rebel group.

Under the deal, Areva will fix uranium prices for the next two years and

allow production worth 1.5 billion US dollars to begin at the Imouraren site.

The Niger Government deported a local manager of Areva in July and put an end to Areva’s monopoly in the sector amid allegations that the French company was financing a Tuareg rebel group in an alleged bid to discourage competitors.

According to the company’s website, the Imouraren site is expected to start up production at the end of 2010 and will enable Niger to be the second-largest uranium-producing nation in the world with almost 5,000 tons of uranium production annually.

MNA/Xinhua



A display of fruits and vegetables at a market. Women who follow the famous Mediterranean diet while pregnant may also be shielding their baby from childhood asthma and allergy, a study published on Tuesday says.—INTERNET

Boost export of eels to earn more foreign exchange

*Article by Myint Maung Soe
Photos by Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)*



"Eels are found on the beds of creeks and canals. So, we can say that eels are a natural resource in the earth." (Daw Mya Thazin, Secretary of Eel Entrepreneurs' Association)

Being rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources, Myanmar earns a great deal of foreign exchange by exporting marine products.

The nation is blessed with a long coast and a large number of rivers, creeks and natural lakes where it can operate fishery industry on a commercial scale.

Fish, prawn and crab are abundant and pearl breeding industry is making progress in the Myanmar's waters.

The People's Republic of China is the largest market for Myanmar's fish, prawn, crab and eel. Among the marine products exported to China, eel is in high demand.



Eel boxes are loaded onto trucks in Yangon to transport them to Muse 105th Mile.

Eel is exported under the leadership of the Eel Entrepreneurs' Association. In an interview, Secretary Daw Mya Thazin of the Fisheries Association said that the association was accommodating 10 eel exporters on the campus of the Institute of Fisheries in West Gyogone, Insein Township. The association exported eel to China through Muse 105th Mile border trade zone, she said.

She said that eel was produced on a large scale in Ayeyawady, Bago, Mandalay and Magway divisions and Mon State, and it was caught natural lakes, creeks and canals.

Regarding the export of eel, she said that the association had set up its agents in states and divisions

105th Mile the following day, she said.

Eel is caught most from September to December. The creature hibernates from February to March and gives birth in the rainy season.

Eels with minimum girth of seven millimetres are allowed to be exported. In order to avert extinction of eel species, small eels are removed with the use of sieves and are released to natural lakes, creeks and canals.

Purchase centres buy eels at the price of 3700 kyats a viss. Now, eel exporting business is booming, so, eel fishers are earning a lot of incomes.

The Eel Entrepreneur Association is helping the nation earn foreign exchange by boosting the export

Workers removing smaller than seven-millimetre girth eels with the use of a sieve.



where eel is produced on a commercial scale. The association got the marine product through its purchase centres. Then, it transported the product to Muse 105th Mile and sold it to China through auction. Many purchase centres in China purchased eel from the association, she said.

She said that the purchase centres of the association washed the eels and kept them in water-proof boxes with plastic sheets inside it. Each box could hold 50 viss of eels. Every day, on average, one to three 110-box-capacity trucks left Yangon in the afternoon and arrived in Mandalay the next morning. There, the eel boxes were transferred onto the trucks from Muse. Then, the trucks left Mandalay and arrived in Muse



Eels are kept in water-proof boxes filled with freshwater.

of eels. From April to December 2007, it exported over 6,725 tons of eels.

The association is working hard to earn more foreign exchange this financial year by exporting eels.

**Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 15-1-2008**



Dirty water is taken out of the eel boxes and replaced it with clean water.

Tasks for sustainable development of rural libraries emphasized

YANGON, 16 Jan—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected work progress at Bago District and Toungoo District Information and Public Relations Departments in Bago Division (East) and held meetings with chairmen of district and township Peace and Development Councils and officials of the Ministry of Information this morning.

The meetings focused on cooperation and coordination for sustainable progress of the libraries.

The minister met with chairmen of Bago District and Township PDCs and officials of Bago District, Bago Township, Thanatpin Township, Shwegyin and DaikU Township IPRDs at Bago District IPRD at 10 am, and with chairmen of Toungoo District and Township PDCs and officials of the IPRDs of Toungoo District, and Toungoo, Htantabin, Ottwin, Pyu, Yedashe, Thandaunggyi and Thandaung townships, and the head and officials of Toungoo TV re-transmitting station at Toungoo IPRD at 2.30 pm. The minister underscored steps to be taken for sustainable progress of the libraries, organizing local people to read in rural libraries for broadening their horizons of knowledge, cooperation of local administrative bodies,



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with staff of Information and Public Relations Department in Toungoo. — MNA

NGOs including the Union Solidarity and Development Association, wellwishers and IPRD staff for development of the libraries. He also highlighted the five tasks for sustainable development of libraries. He attended to the need for the tasks through discussions with local authorities and USDA members.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan views posters at the office of Bago Township Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA

54th Myanmar Medical Conference opened

YANGON, 16 Jan—The opening ceremony of the 54th Myanmar Medical Conference was held at the hall (A) of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu road here this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association professor Dr Kyaw Myint Naing delivered an opening address on the occasion.

Vice-Chairman Prof Guoming Qi of Chinese Medical Association, Chairman Prof Guixing Qi of Chinese Orthopaedics

Team and leader of Thai medical delegation extended greetings on the occasion.

Chairperson of Reception Sub-committee Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha made welcoming speech on the occasion. Chairman of Education Sub-committee Prof Dr Tint Swe Latt made a speech. The messages sent to the 54th MMC were read out and the ceremony went into recess. The conference continued at 10.30 am. Prof Dr Myo Myint presided over the conference. Prof Guixing

Qi read out the paper on Spinal Scoliosis and Prof Dr Myint Thaung on Spine Surgery in Myanmar.

Afterwards, the annual general meeting of MMA in conjunction with the first meeting of central committee was held in the afternoon. The 2008-2009 new executive committee including Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing and Prof Dr Myint Thaung was selected. Future tasks were discussed and the meeting successfully concluded.

The conference will go on till 22 January. MNA

Deputy Minister goes over Lashio Power Station

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint held

a meeting with staff at Lashio Power Station on 10 January. He next inspected

control room and the place where transformers will be installed, and fulfilled the need. — MNA

50 receive skills to prevent human-to-human infection of bird flu virus in Shan State (East)

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — Health staff in Shan State (East) received skills for preventing human-to-human infection of bird flu virus in Kengtung on 11 January.

Altogether 50 health staff including heads of township, health department doctors, health assistants, nurses and midwives from township health departments in Shan State (East) attended the training course which was opened at the General Hospital in Kengtung on 11 January.

At the ceremony to open the course, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivered an opening address and Head of Shan State (East) Health Department Dr Myint Aung briefed on bird flu outbreak in the state and preventive measures against the bird flu and human-to-human infection.

Director of the Health Department Dr Soe Lwin

Nyein explained how to counter the human-to-human infection if it is happened.

Dr Phyu Phyu Soe of Kengtung People's Hospital demonstrated the use of protection equipment for bird flu virus.

Afterwards, the trainees visited the infectious disease control unit at Kengtung People's Hospital.

After the ceremony,

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo went to Monghpyat People's Hospital and gave instructions on preventive measures against bird flu outbreak.

On 12 January, the deputy minister visited the People's Hospital in Tachilek and inspected the laboratory room, wards, operation room, delivery room, X-ray room and other units and fulfilled the requirements of the hospital. —MNA

One injured in mine blast in Kyaukkyi

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — Insurgent destructionists are undermining stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order. They are also committing destructive acts with intention of killing and injuring innocent people using various ways and means.

On 11 January, U Thaung Aye, 38, son of U Htwe Maung of Kyaungpya village lost his left foot after stepping on a mine planted by insurgents at Kyweludein while he was on his way to the woods to gather thatches.

The injured was rushed to Kyaukkyi Township Hospital and received medical treatment and necessary assistance. The authorities concerned are investigating the case.—MNA

Commander visits foundry shop in Monywa Industrial Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi inspected a private foundry shop in Monywa Industrial Zone on 7 January.

After visiting the foundry shop of Thiha Tun Co Ltd, the commander and minister attended to the needs of the foundry shop.

Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe and Minister U Aung Kyi also met with workers of the foundry shop and called for work-site safety and

minimizing the loss and wastage.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister visited construction site of Standing Buddha Statue at Maha Bawdhi Tahtaung Monastery in Monywa and donated offertories to Sayadaws of the monastery. —MNA

Construction Minister inspects Swachaung Bridge and Pyay-Paukkhaung-Toungoo Road

YANGON, 16 Jan — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials inspected Swachaung bridge construction site on Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay Road on 13 January.

At the briefing hall, the bridge construction in-charge Senior Engineer U Kyaw Lin reported on construction of approach

structures, bore piles and future tasks. The minister gave necessary instructions to them.

Senior Engineer U Saw Han reported on the works of Pyay-Paukkhaung-Toungoo Road, work done and to be done. The minister inspected paving of 38.7-mile Hseshauung tarred road.

The minister and

party inspected road works along the Pyay-Paukkhaung-Toungoo Road.

Next, they arrived at the briefing hall of road construction special group-7 in Paukkhaung. Assistant Engineer Daw Aye Myint reported on tasks of Pyay-Paukkhaung road section according to 2007-2008 fiscal year.

MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects tasks in Thingangyun, Thakayta Tsps

YANGON, 14 Jan — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin looked into dredging of drainage in Thuwanna Ward 23 and nearby wards in Thingangyun Township and repaving and repairing of gravel road from Ayeyawun Round-about to Thitseit Awin Road in Thakayta Township with the use of machinery and manpower, and fulfilled the needs.

He then viewed dredging of sandbank and clearing of flotsam and duckweed at the Innaya Lake on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road to make the lake green and enable it to store much more water in the rainy season.

MNA

Minister assists in implementing power projects

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min met staff at Nanshan Power Station Project on 13 January. After hearing reports of officials concerned, he saw to difficulties and

requirements of the tasks and left instruction to make efforts to meet the target set.

Upon arriving at Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project, he heard reports of officials at the briefing hall and

gave them instructions to perform in the opening season.

Next, he inspected the work-site, the waterfall and the place to install power station.

Upper Kengtawng Project is on

Namtain Creek, about 10 miles northwest of Kengtawng, Moehne District, and it is the first hydropower project that started to build this year. Upon completion, it will produce 52.5 megawatts.

MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects dredging in Thingangyun Township.

MNA

Japan provides US\$ 1.79 million Grant Aid

YANGON, 14 Jan — The Exchange of Notes concerning the Grant Aid of the Japanese Government for "Improvement of Maternal and Child Health Care Services (Phase VIII)" was signed between Mr Yasuaki Nogawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Union of Myanmar, and Mr Ramesh Shrestha, Representative, UNICEF in Myanmar, at Sedona Hotel here on 14 January 2008.

The Government of Japan will provide its Grant Aid of US\$ 1.79 million in this project for the purchase of rapid test kits and medicines for malaria, vaccines for measles and tetanus, essential medicaments and equipment for reproductive health and others. They will be distributed to township hospitals and rural health facilities in Myanmar through UNICEF, in collaboration with the

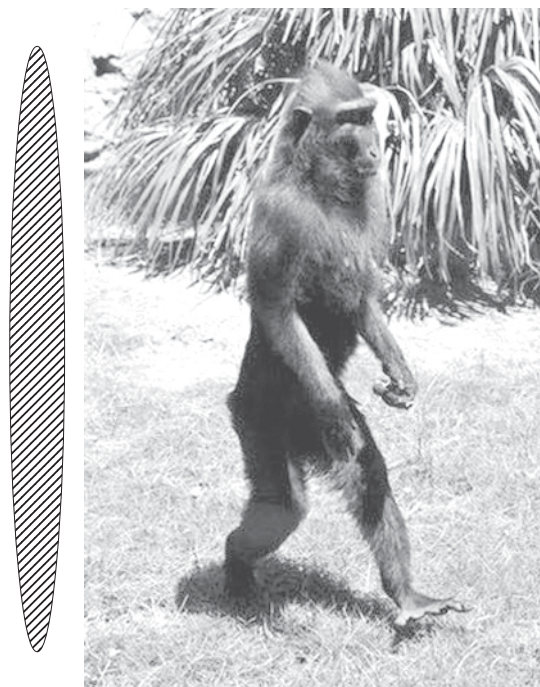
Government of the Union of Myanmar.

This project has been developed through consultations among the Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar, the Government of Japan and UNICEF, aiming mainly at improving the health care for mothers and children in Myanmar, especially in rural areas. In this context, the Government of Japan has already provided a series of assistance for seven consecutive phases for the same projects amounting to US\$ 31.9 million from 1999 to 2006.

This project is expected to contribute to further improvement of the situation of maternal and child health in Myanmar through supporting the work of UNICEF, and to strengthen the friendship between Japan and Myanmar. — H

Monkey's brain signals used to control robot

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan — Scientists in the United States and Japan have managed to successfully use a monkey's brain to control a robot over the Internet, something which they hope will help paralyzed people walk again.



According to processor Miguel Nicolelis, a neurobiology professor at Duke University. He led the research and stated that this is only a few years away from helping paralyzed people walk again.

How it works is it allows them to use their thoughts to control an exoskeleton attached to their body. The research has been going on for 10 years. He stated "This is an attempt to restore mobility to people. We had the animal trained to walk on a treadmill. As it walked, we recorded its brain activity that generated its locomotion pattern. As the animal was walking and slowing down and changing his pattern, his brain activity was driving a robot in Japan in real time."

The brain activity was sent to the Computational Brain Project of Japan Science and Technology Agency over the Internet. A humanoid robot received the activity and was walking at the exact same pace as the monkey. For a human, electrodes and a computer chip would be implanted in a patient's brain. The electrodes would wirelessly transmit information to the chip, which would in turn send out the brain signals to an attached device. The exoskeleton would surround the legs and would work with the brain activity of a person. — INTERNET

Afghan paper slams British comments on troops

KABUL, 16 Jan — The warning by Britain's Defence Secretary Des Browne that British troops could be engaged in Afghanistan for decades is an irresponsible one and against the country's national sovereignty, an Afghan paper said on Tuesday.

Britain, which has about 7,800 troops operating in Afghanistan

in a 40,000-strong NATO stabilization force, is expected to increase that number as it withdraws from Iraq.

Asked when British soldiers would be withdrawn from Afghanistan, Browne told Sunday's *The People* newspaper: "We cannot risk it again becoming an ungoverned training haven for terrorists who threaten the

UK."

He said: "It is a commitment which could last decades, although it will reduce over time."

"But there is only so much our forces can achieve. The job can only be completed by the international community working with the Afghan Government and its army," he added.

MNA/Reuters



Workers labour on different segments of an exhibition hall at the venue of the Singapore Air Show on 16 Jan, 2008, in Singapore. Asia's largest aerospace and defence event will be held mid February in the city-state.— INTERNET

Eight wounded in coordinated bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan — Eight people were wounded in a double roadside bomb attack in central Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The incident occurred when a roadside bomb detonated in Karradah neighbourhood on Tuesday morning, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

As police forces rushed to secure the scene, another bomb went off damaging a police vehicle and two civilian cars, the source said. — MNA/Xinhua

Chile forest fire causes worth \$3m

SANTIAGO, 16 Jan — Monday's forest fire in Valparaiso, a city 120 kilometres northwest of Chile's capital Santiago, caused damages of at least three million US dollars, the city mayor said Tuesday. Thirty-six people were injured, two of them very seriously, Valparaiso mayor Aldo Cornejo said, adding that twenty-three hectares of forest were destroyed.

The local government will spend 1.2 million US dollars in housing subsidies alone for families left homeless by the fire at La Cruz Heights in Valparaiso, Cornejo said. A total of 91 families were affected, as well as those living illegally on the slopes of the Heights, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



Crude prices rise on cold weather forecasts

NEW YORK, 16 Jan — Crude futures rose Monday as forecasts for cold weather in the United States raised expectations of higher energy demand.

The National Weather Service is calling for below-normal temperatures across most of the United States over the next

two weeks.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery rose 1.51 US dollars to 94.20 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, Brent crude gained 1.85 dollars to 92.92 dollars a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

A container storage site is seen at a terminal of the 'Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG' (HHLA) in the harbour of Hamburg, Germany, on 14 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Explosion hits US embassy vehicle in northern Beirut

BEIRUT, 16 Jan — An explosion targeted a US embassy vehicle on Tuesday in northern Beirut, killing four persons and wounded over 20 others, local TV broadcaster LBC said.

The report said all the dead were Lebanese, including a Lebanese driver serving in the US Embassy.

But the US State Department said the Lebanese driver of the US Embassy car was slightly injured. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said all the four killed were local residents. McCormack also said that he was not able to confirm whether the US Embassy car was the target of the explosion.

Meanwhile, local Naharnet news website

reported that two US Embassy employees were injured in the explosion, which occurred in the predominantly Christian Dora-Karantina neighbourhood.

A source at the US Embassy was quoted by as saying that the two US citizens are "embassy employees, they are wounded, but in a stable condition."

"The attack did not result in killing any US citizen," the source said, refusing to disclose further details as to whether the two wounded Americans are diplomats.

TV pictures showed a car severely damaged in the explosion, which also inflicted damage to about 20 cars in the crowded industrial zone.

MNA/Xinhua

Slovaks begin to use biometric passports

PRAGUE, 16 Jan — Slovaks can travel with new passports that contain a digital map of the face as required by the European Union (EU) as from Tuesday, Slovak Interior Minister Robert Kalinak said. The previously issued passports will be in force

until expiry of their validity, according to the report reaching here from Bratislava, capital of Slovakia.

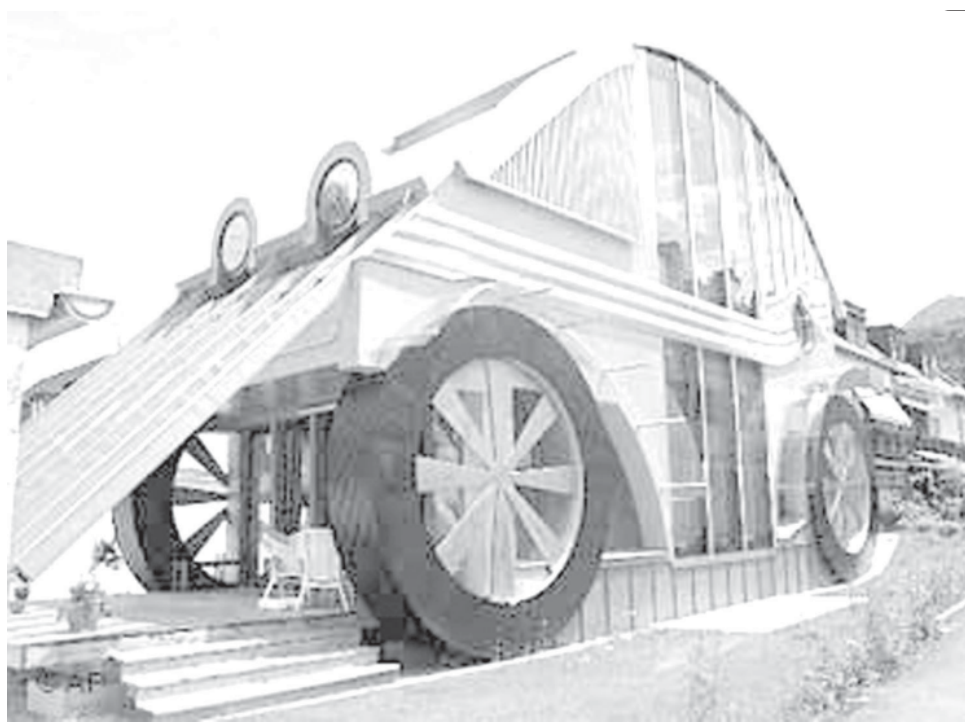
"These passports are another step towards security and they may simplify our citizens' travelling," Kalinak said.

The other biometric data, fingerprints, is to be added to passports next year, the report said. Slovak citizens' travelling to a majority of European countries has become easier since last December when the country entered the Schengen area.—MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan policemen conduct a search operation in Colombo, on 15 Jan, 2008. Twenty people were killed and many others injured on Wednesday in a suspected Tamil Tiger bomb attack on a crowded bus in southwest Sri Lanka, officials said.



Images of the Day



Some people claim to live in their cars, but for a family in the Austrian town of Langwied, that's not so far-fetched. The house that looks like a car is the brainchild of architect Manfred Voglreiter. His creation has become an eyecatcher for locals and visitors who often stop by to photograph the dwelling, built for a local family of four.

INTERNET

News in Brief

Kenyan pol leaders urged to have more peace talks

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan— The United States reiterated on Monday its call for leaders of Kenyan political parties to avoid violent conflicts by having more talks to find a political solution to their stalemate.

The exchanges between Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga are “not enough and not a sustained communication to find a final political resolution to the crisis,” State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters.—MNA/Xinhua

UNEP praises China's restriction on use of plastic bags

NAIROBI, 16 Jan— UN environment chief Achim Steiner has praised a recent decision by the Chinese Government to impose limits on the use of plastic bags taking effect on first June 1, as part of the country's dual-purpose campaign to protect the environment and save energy.

“This is a positive decision by China. It also underlines a growing and welcome international trend by countries, cities and communities to crack down on flimsy thin plastic bags,” Steiner said in a written interview with Xinhua.

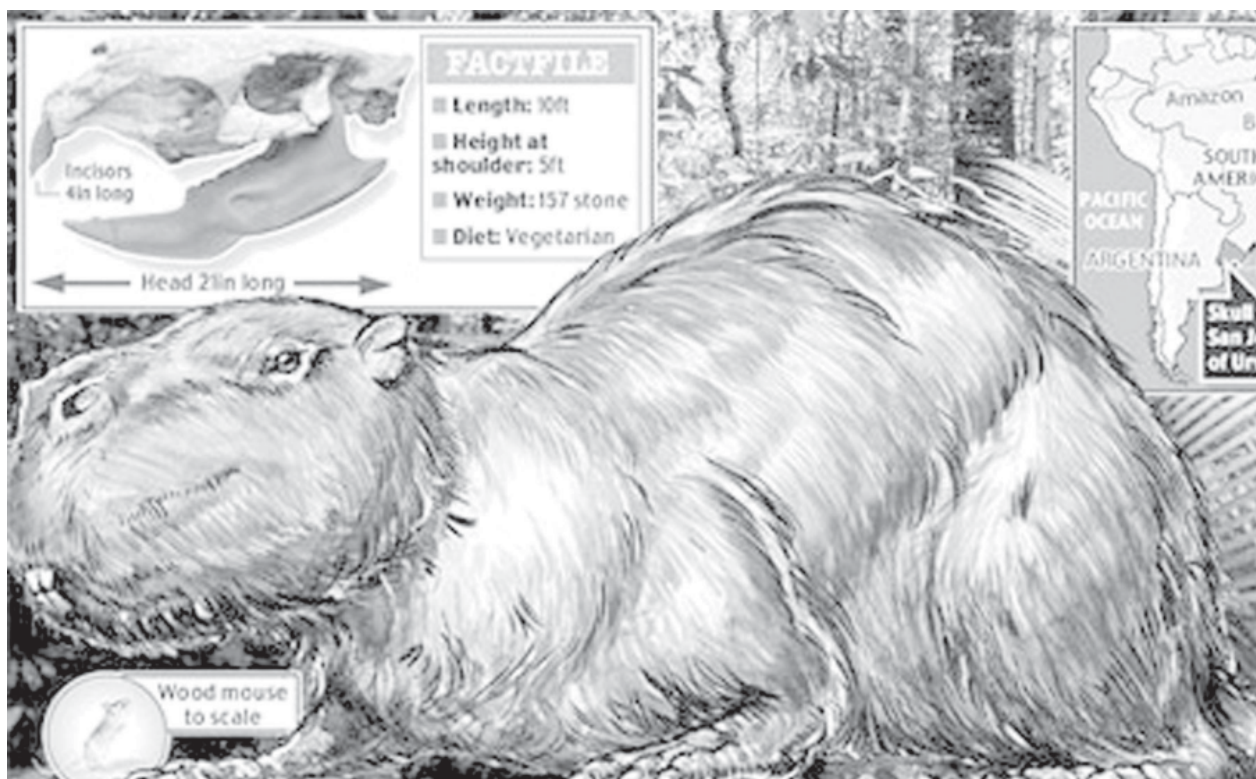
“The impact of a ban on thin plastic bags, in an economy the size of China, has the potential to influence similar policies in the Asia region and globally,” said the UN Under-Secretary-General and executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).—MNA/Xinhua

Also unearthed from the tomb was a 66 cm long sword. The sword grip and sheath were beautifully decorated and colorful. It is the earliest sword discovered by Chinese archeologists thus far and experts have named it the “first sword under the sky.”

XINHUA



Researchers said they have made the darkest material on Earth, a substance so black it absorbs more than 99.9 percent of light on 15 Jan, 2008.—XINHUA



Scientists have unearthed the skull of a giant prehistoric rat — a car-sized behemoth that roamed South America four million years ago, according to a study published in Wednesday's Proceedings of the Royal Society B.—XINHUA

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (164)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (164) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2008 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG KAJA VOY NO (38)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG KAJA VOY NO (38) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 16.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.6 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO,LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Israeli diamond dealers killed in Namibia air crash

WINDHOEK,15 Jan—Five passengers killed when their light aircraft crashed in a residential suburb of Namibia's capital Windhoek on Friday were Israeli diamond dealers, diplomats and police said on Sunday. The Cessna 210 plane ploughed into a house and set it ablaze while attempting an emergency landing in which the pilot was also killed.

Lawyer Chris Merkel, who represents Lazare Kaplan, the New York partners of local diamond cutter Nam-Gem, said the men were employed by Lazare Kaplan International.

Israeli media and Namibian diamond industry officials named the five dead Israelis as Shlomo Zilberberg,

Shmuel Zigdon, Amit Cohen, Ilan Hadadi and Avichai Abarov.

Israel's Ambassador to South Africa, Ilan Baruch, who flew to Namibia on Saturday to deal with the incident, said he could not officially confirm the names of the five men.

Other pilots in the air around Eros Airport said they heard the pilot of the

plane issue a May-day radio call around 1420 GMT on Friday, saying his aircraft was experiencing turbulence and was rapidly losing altitude. The plane was heading for Mashara Lodge, a private game reserve 600 kilometres (375 miles) north of Windhoek, aviation industry officials said.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia reports 95th bird flu death

JAKARTA, 15 Jan—A 32-year-old woman has died of bird flu in the Indonesian town of Tangerang, bringing total death toll to 95, a health official said Monday.

The woman has been treated at the Sari Asih Hospital in Tangerang, just south of Jakarta, for suspected bird flu symptoms but her family has insisted to take her home for unknown reasons, said Dessyana, a staff of the media office with the Health Ministry.

“The patient died at her home on Thursday, and laboratory test results we get on Monday showed that she was positive of having bird flu,” Dessyana told Xinhua.—MNA/Xinhua

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Used in respect of:-
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Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to Law.

Htain Lin Oo (LL.B) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND
PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon. 17 January 2008

China says food safety push a complete success

BEIJING,15 Jan—China on Monday declared its four-month campaign to ensure food safety a complete success, with all objectives being met months before Beijing hosts the Summer Olympics.

Scandals involving substandard food, drugs and other goods are reported by Chinese media almost every day. The issue burst into the international spotlight when tainted additives exported from China

contaminated pet food in North America.

Millions of toys made in China were recalled last year, many by US giant Mattel, mainly because of excessive levels of lead paint.

“The tasks of the rectification campaign have been fulfilled completely and its objectives have all been reached,” the State Council Information Office said in a news release.

MNA/Reuters

Three dead, three missing in northern Italy avalanche

ROME, 15 Jan—An avalanche in northern Italy killed at least three people and injured six, while another three are still missing, state television said on Sunday.

The group of 12 was hit by the avalanche on Mount Maniva, near the city of Brescia, as they were riding on snowmobiles, the fire brigade said. Rescuers dug the six injured people out of the snow, and were still looking for those missing.

A cold snap has swept through northern Italy over the past few days, with heavy snow increasing the risk of avalanches. Two young skiers died in the popular resort of Livigno on Saturday.—MNA/Reuters

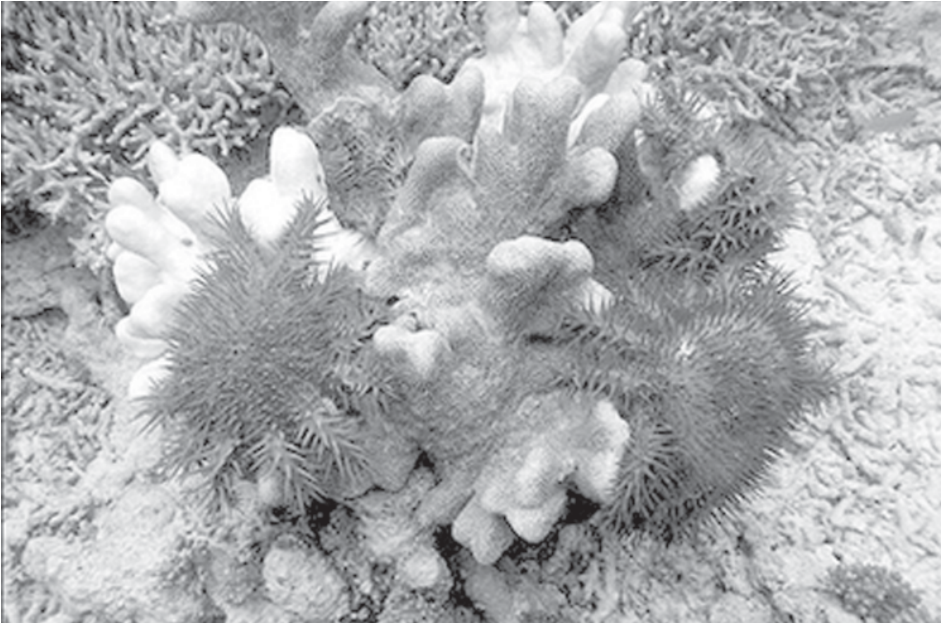
Vietnam reports poultry deaths in central province

HANOI, 15 Jan—Nearly 2,000 fowls in Vietnam's central Thua Thien Hue Province have died over the past few days, local Press reported on Monday.

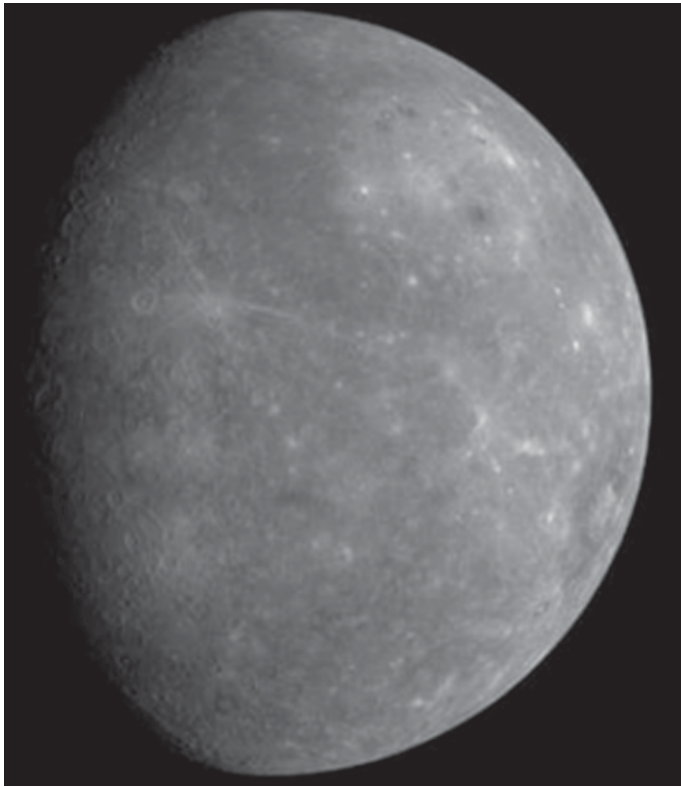
Specimens from the dead chickens and ducks in Huong Tra District are being tested for bird flu virus H5N1, the Pioneer newspaper quoted the provincial Veterinary Bureau as saying.

The affected area has been disinfected and isolated to prevent potential disease outbreaks, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua



This handout photo, released by the Wildlife Conservation Society in Jakarta shows crown of thorns starfish on corals. Outbreaks of the crown of thorns starfish are threatening Indonesia's portion of the "coral triangle", the richest area of coral reef biodiversity on the planet, scientists warned.—INTERNET



An image of Mercury is seen as taken by NASA's Messenger spacecraft at a distance of approximately 17,000 miles (27,359 km) after the spacecraft's closest approach to the planet on 15 Jan, 2008. The image shows features as small as 6 miles (10km) in size. Similar to previously mapped portions of Mercury, this hemisphere appears heavily cratered.
INTERNET

UK biofuels push lacks greenhouse targets

LONDON, 15 Jan— A government directive requiring fuel suppliers to use more biofuels will do little to combat climate change because the measure lacks targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, British scientists said on Monday.

In a report focusing on the British directive set to take effect in April 2008, the Royal Society said biofuels should play an important role in cutting greenhouse gas emissions linked to global warming.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation requires transport fuel suppliers to ensure that 5 per cent of all fuels come from a renewable resource

by 2012.

The requirement is part of a wider European Union biofuels directive.

"The government must ensure that the (requirement) promotes fuels with the lowest emissions by, for example, setting a greenhouse gas reduction target," John Pickett, who led the Royal Society's biofuels study.

"Without a target we risk missing opportunities

to stimulate exciting innovations that will help us cut our spiralling transport emissions."

Biofuels, mainly produced from agricultural crops such as maize, sugarcane and vegetable oils, are seen by many as a way to cut emission of greenhouse gases and to boost energy security at a time when oil output may be at or near its peak.

MNA/Reuters

Nine killed, 52 injured in C China highway pileup

CHANGSHA, 15 Jan— Nine people were killed and 52 others were injured in a pile-up involving four motor vehicles on a highway in central China's Hunan Province in the early hours of Monday, said local police.

The accident occurred at 3:28 am on Monday on a section of highway in Hengyang County.

Police said a coach, heading from southern Guangdong to Loudi in Hunan, suddenly skidded and bumped into a heavy goods vehicle ahead of it. Another coach, travelling from eastern Fujian Province to Shaodong County in Hunan, crashed into the truck, which was in turn rammed by a van

from behind.

Three people died at the scene of the accident and six others died later in hospital.

The injured were receiving treatment in

local hospitals.

All the four vehicles were registered in Hunan, said the police, who did not reveal how many people were on board the vehicles. —MNA/Xinhua



An ambulance carrying an injured person, leaves for a hospital at Nagakute town, central Japan in 2007. More than 200 hospitals in Japan have ended emergency care in the past two years due to financial difficulties and a lack of doctors, a survey showed in Tuesday. —INTERNET

Activists chase Japan whalers, but split on tactics

CANBERRA, 15 Jan— Anti-whaling activists on Monday said they had chased the flagship of Japan's whaling fleet from hunting grounds near Antarctica, but

were divided over protest action if the Japanese returned to resume the yearly slaughter.

Greenpeace said its protest ship, *Esperanza*, had successfully stopped Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean after intercepting the fleet's factory processing ship, the *Nisshin Maru*, at the weekend and chasing it north through heavy seas.

"We are a mile or two behind and matching them for speed.

At the moment we are reaching our objective which was to stop them whaling, so there is no need to do anything more than keep

them on the run," spokeswoman Sara Holden told *Reuters* from the ship.

Japan plans to hunt almost 1,000 minke and fin whales for research over the Antarctic summer, but has abandoned the cull of 50 humpback whales after international condemnation and a formal diplomatic protest by 31 nations.

Holden said the *Nisshin Maru* had been clear of whaling grounds for 24 hours and appeared to be joining a refuelling and supply ship from the six-vessel fleet, the *Oriental Bluebird*.

MNA/Reuters

Apple unveils world's thinnest laptop MacBook Air

BEIJING, 16 Jan — Apple Inc. chief Steve Jobs on Tuesday introduced an ultra-slim laptop computer that he billed as the world's leanest laptop, media reported. The new Apple notebook, the MacBook Air, is 1.93 centimetres thick at its thickest point and 0.41 centimeters at its thinnest, small enough to fit in a manila envelope, which is how Jobs demonstrated it to a crowd of Apple fans at the Macworld Expo.

"It's the world's thinnest notebook (computer)," Jobs said with a smile. "We went out and looked at all the thin notebooks out there and tried to distill a best-of-breed." The new notebook does not come equipped with an optical drive for playing CDs and DVDs, though one

is available as an option for 99 US dollars. Instead, Apple has equipped it with remote software that lets users play DVDs and CDs on another computer as if they were on the notebook.

The MacBook Air notebook, which has a 13.3-inch screen and full-sized laptop keyboard, weighs 1.36 kilograms and has battery life of five hours. The ultra-lean laptop is priced at 1,799 dollars and will begin shipping in two weeks, Jobs said. Jobs also confirmed the consumer electronics company's foray into online movie rentals, revealing an alliance with all six major movie studios to offer films over high-speed Internet connections within 30 days after they're released on DVD. —Internet

Apple CEO Steve Jobs holds up the new MacBook Air while giving the keynote address at Apple MacWorld Conference in San Francisco, on 15 Jan, 2008. The super-slim new laptop is less than an inch thick and turns on the moment it's opened. —INTERNET



SPORTS



Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard (8) scores against Luton Town during their FA Cup third round soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 15 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Gerrard lifts Liverpool with FA Cup hat trick

LONDON, 16 Jan — Liverpool thrashed third division Luton Town 5-0 in an FA Cup third-round replay at Anfield on Tuesday with Steven Gerrard grabbing a hat-trick.

Tottenham Hotspur also advanced with a 1-0 replay win at Premier League rivals Reading, Robbie Keane scoring the winner to set up a tie at Manchester United.

Manager Rafael Benitez, whose future looks uncertain after Liverpool’s American owners admitted talking to Juergen Klinsmann about succeeding him at Anfield, sent out a strong team against a Luton side who held them 1-1 nine days ago.

The teams formed a guard of honour for Jamie Carragher before the start to mark the defender’s 500th appearance for Liverpool.

Carragher had a quiet night after that, although the visitors held out until a minute before halftime when Dutch winger Ryan Babel shot powerfully past keeper Dean Brill.

Gerrard headed the second after the break before Sami Hyypia made it 3-0 with a deflected header. Gerrard then slotted his second before completing his treble with a swerving effort 20 minutes from time.

Liverpool will be at home to third division Swansea City or minor league Havant and Waterlooville in round four. "It was difficult to score the first goal but after that it was an open game," Benitez told Sky Sports. "They (Luton) were defending very hard with lots of players behind the ball.

"I'm very happy because we won the game and that's all I was thinking about." — MNA/Reuters



Tottenham Hotspur’s Robbie Keane celebrates his goal during their 3rd round replay FA Cup soccer match against Reading at the Madejski stadium, Reading, England, on 15 Jan, 2008. INTERNET

Barca tame holders Sevilla to advance in Cup

BARCELONA, 16 Jan — Barcelona knocked holders Sevilla out of the King's Cup on the away goals rule on Tuesday after a battling 0-0 draw at the Nou Camp.

Frank Rijkaard's side, who drew 1-1 in last week's first leg, were put under heavy pressure by Sevilla but held their nerve to book their place in the quarter-finals.

Barca will now meet the winners of Wednesday's tie between Recreativo Huelva and Villarreal.

"It was a titanic effort from both teams," said Barcelona president Joan Laporta. "In the end we had the luck to go through, but Sevilla are a great team and we saw two of the best sides in Europe competing out there."

Sevilla coach Manolo Jimenez said the tie had turned on Thierry Henry's away goal in the first leg.

"It was a very evenly balanced tie, but a great piece of skill from Henry proved to be decisive and that was what allowed his team to get through."

The game got off to a high tempo start with Sevilla keeping Barca on the rack in the opening minutes as they went in search of an early goal.

MNA/Reuters



Barcelona’s Thierry Henry applauds before the start of the match against Sevilla in their Spanish King’s Cup soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, on 15 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Juventus reach last eight by beating Empoli

MILAN, 16 Jan — Juventus reached the Italian Cup quarter-finals after beating Serie A strugglers Empoli 5-3 in a Turin thriller on Tuesday to advance 6-5 on aggregate.

An under-strength Juve lost 2-1 at Empoli in December's first leg and Claudio Ranieri's decision to field a few of his big guns in the return match paid early dividends when Marco Marchionni burst through the defence to score.

Pavel Nedved doubled the lead on 10 minutes but an injury to defender Giorgio Chiellini knocked Juve off their stride. Empoli capitalized when Luca Antonini slid in to pull one back and Nicola Pozzi produced an excellent header to bring the scores level on the night. — MNA/Reuters

Clemson’s Terrence Oglesby, right, drives the lane against North Carolina State’s Simon Harris during the second half of the basketball game in Clemson, SC, on 15 Jan, 2008. Oglesby had four 3-pointers and No. 24 Clemson beat North Carolina State 70-54.—INTERNET



Switzerland’s Patty Schnyder hits a shot to Australia’s Casey Dellacqua at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 16 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Makaay double eases Feyenoord through in Dutch Cup

AMSTERDAM, 16 Jan — Roy Makaay's double helped Feyenoord to a comfortable 4-0 away win at the amateurs of Deurne on Tuesday and a place in the quarter-finals of the Dutch cup.

Chun-Soo Lee set up Jonathan de Guzman for the opening goal after eight minutes before Makaay grabbed his first from a rebound eight minutes later.

After an hour De Guzman found with Makaay a defence splitting pass for the third goal before Michael Mols headed a fourth. — MNA/Reuters

Inter sign Maniche on loan from Atletico Madrid

MILAN, 16 Jan — Portugal midfielder Maniche has joined Inter Milan on loan from Spanish side Atletico Madrid until June, the Serie A leaders said on Tuesday.

"Maniche is Inter's. This morning, having completed a medical, he signed a contract with the club until June 30 2008," the club said on their Web site (www.inter.it) after the loan was concluded following days of talks.

Media reports said Inter had first option to buy Maniche for 6 million euros (9 million US dollars).

The 30-year-old was an important part of Jose Mourinho's Porto side that won the 2003 UEFA Cup and the 2004 Champions League. He was also in the Portugal team which reached the Euro 2004 final and the 2006 World Cup semi-final.

MNA/Reuters

“Le Monde” ordered to compensate Barca for doping story

MADRID, 16 Jan — French daily Le Monde has been ordered by a Spanish court to pay Barcelona 300,000 euros in compensation for linking the club with the doctor at the centre of the Operation Puerto doping investigation.

Barcelona said the ruling from a Barcelona court also stated that Le Monde should publish a correction about the articles, which appeared in the paper on December 7 and 8 in 2006, in its printed and online editions and in two leading Catalan dailies.

"The verdict satisfies Barcelona's desire for the publication of a correction of the articles which will deny any links between Barcelona and Eufemiano Fuentes and deny any links between the club and any doping practices," the club said in a statement on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

Landslide in Indonesia's Papua kills 10

JAKARTA, 16 Jan — A landslide in Indonesia's remote Papua Province has killed at least 10 people after heavy rain caused a hillside to collapse onto a complex of houses, a police and a disaster official said on Tuesday.

A local police official said that the disaster occurred on Monday afternoon after heavy downpours, combined with strong winds in the area, destabilized the hillside.

Rustam Pakaya, head of the Health Ministry's crisis centre in Jakarta, told *Reuters* that seven people were also injured and three were still missing after the landslide in the area of the provincial capital Jayapura.

"We have deployed medical teams but we don't know yet how many people have been displaced," Pakaya said.

Landslides and floods are frequent in Indonesia, where tropical downpours can quickly soak hillsides and years of deforestation often mean there is little vegetation to hold the soil.—*MNA/Reuters*

Abbas says latest peace talks brought nothing

RAMALLAH, 16 Jan — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Tuesday the latest round of peace talks with Israel brought nothing.

"The negotiations are still in their beginning," Abbas told reporters in Ramallah. Israeli and Palestinian negotiation crews met on Monday in Jerusalem to discuss the obstacles which delay the progress of the peace talks.

The two sides agreed

to launch the talks last month after years of halt. The building of Israeli settlements in West Bank was one of the main obstacles.

"If the desire and the true intentions, among the Israeli side, became available, then we would be able to make peace this year," Abbas said.

MNA/Xinhua

Former governor killed in S Afghanistan blast

KABUL, 16 Jan — A roadside bomb blast triggered by remote-control has killed two tribal elders, including a former provincial governor, in Tirin Kot District of southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province, the police said Tuesday.

"The two were heading towards their houses from a mosque at around 7.00 pm (1430

GMT) Monday when the bomb exploded," Uruzgan's police chief Juma Gul Himat told *Xinhua*.

Fazl Rabi once served as Uruzgan governor during the Mohammad Najibullah regime in the 1990s and deputy governor of Uruzgan in 2003-2004, Himat said.

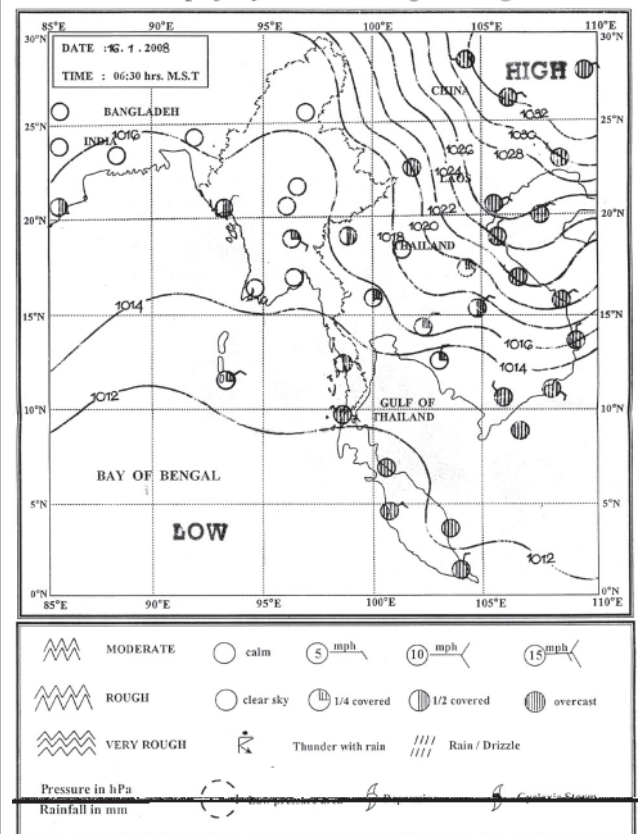
No one or group took the responsibility yet.

Militancy-related violence left over 6,000 people dead in war-torn Afghanistan in 2007, the bloodiest year since the Taliban regime were toppled six years ago.

Both Afghans and NATO commanders have expected more militants attacks this year in Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 16 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (-1°C), Haka (1°C) and Namhsam (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 15-1-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 16-1-2008 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-1-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 15-1-2008 was (7.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 15-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-1-2008: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Easterly strong wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-1-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-1-2008: Fair weather.



Thursday, 17 January
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရုအဘိဓမ္မမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိကတိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိကဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- Dance of national races

8:05 am

- အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

- Dance variety

8:25 am

- နမ္မတီးတံတား (ကံလှ)

8:30 am

- International news

8:35 am

- Let's Go

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

- Musical programme

5:00 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

- Cute little dancers

5:30 pm

- "ပေါင်ပေါ်ကျတဲ့မီး" (ရဲအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ညိုညိုမင်းထက်၊ ဘုန်းလှိုင်)

ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင် မြင့်လွင်၊ မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

5:45 pm

- Musical programme

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- "သူနဲ့ပဲနေတော့မယ်"

(ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ ကြူကြူလင်း)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဆွဦး)

(MRTV)

6:45 pm

- မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ရေသုမလေးတတိယချိတ်ပြင်"

(အပိုင်း-၃၆)

(ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ချစ်သူများ"

(အပိုင်း-၁၉)

- The next day's programme

People's Desire

- ★ We favour stability.
- ★ We favour peace.
- ★ We oppose unrest and violence.

UMEHL's Gems, Jade sales continue

YANGON, 16 Jan — The 24th Gems and Jade sales for 2008 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd continued for the second day at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township here today. Members of the board of directors of UMEHL and officials visited the sales.

Altogether 850 merchants — 640 from local and 210 from foreign countries — observed gems and jade.

Gems and jade will be put on display till 17 January, and the sales will be held on 18 and 19 January. — MNA



*Local and foreign gem merchants
examine jade lots at 24th Gems and Jade
Sales for 2008. —MNA*

INSIDE

Boost export of eels to earn more foreign exchange



Eel is exported under the leadership of the Eel Entrepreneurs' Association. In an interview, Secretary Daw Mya Thazin of the Fisheries Association said that the association was accommodating 10 eel exporters on the campus of the Institute of Fisheries in West Gyogone, Insein Township. The association exported eel to China through Muse 105th Mile border trade zone, she said.

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ARTICLE BY MYINT MAUNG SOE
PHOTOS BY AUNG THAN (MINGALA TAUNGYUNT)

Significant night temperatures

Loilem (-1°C)

Haka (1°C)

Namhsan (2°C)

- ★ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies
- ★ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!
- ★ The public be warned of
killers in the air waves —
RFA, VOA and BBC