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Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Railroad to be constructed to link Sittway and An and west bank of Ayeyawady River

Prime Minister General Thein Sein tours townships in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Prime Minister General Thein Sein accompanied by Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council

Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaug Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, toured townships in Rakhine

State from 25 to 28 January and met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people and attended to the needs. On 25 January, the Prime Minister and party

left Sittway for Pauktaw Township. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of Township PDC U Aung Aung and officials.

Better Efficiency

At Pauktaw Basic Education High School, the Prime Minister met

and to turn out the students to become outstanding ones endowed with good moral and Union Spirit. Afterwards, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the local people.

At the hall of Pauktaw Township General Administration Department,

dress, the Prime Minister presented books and medicines to Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw San San Aung and Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Win. In Myebon Township, they were welcomed by



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people in Myebon Township, Rakhine State.—MNA

The government spent a huge sum of money on construction of Yangon-Sittway Road and Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road and measures are being taken to upgrade them.

the headmistress and teachers and instructed them to teach the pupils and always try hard to study their subjects for gaining better efficiency, to train the students to abide by the school disciplines and rules and regulations

the Prime Minister met with township level officials, members of social organizations and local people. Chairman of the Township PDC U Aung Aung reported on progress of the region. After giving an ad-

Chairman of Township PDC U Thet Naing and officials. At the Township GAD Office, the Prime Minister met departmental officials, social organization members and townsenders. (See page 8)



PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 29 January, 2009

National progress through regional development

The Union of Myanmar is a nation consisting of states and divisions where national races have been living together. Rakhine State is a part of the Union of Myanmar where various national races such as Rakhine, Bamar, Pyu, Kanyan, Thet, etc. have been living in unity since time immemorial. Rakhine national is also Myanmar national. They are the same. It is very important for national people to forge the Union spirit wherever they live.

The government had to build Yangon-Sittway Road with much difficulty for ensuring better transport between Rakhine State and other regions. It also built Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road for linking the south and the north of Rakhine State and also linking Rakhine State with Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

Despite difficulties, the government implemented these projects to have cordial relations among the national races to make progress in the region. Arrangements are being made for construction of a railroad from Sittway, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, MraukU and Minbya to An to link the one on the west bank of Ayeyawady River.

The major requirements for Rakhine State are advanced communications, smooth transport and sufficient supply of electricity. Plans are under way to construct Thahtaychaung hydropower plant. On completion of the plant, it will be able to generate 417 million kilowatt hours each year.

Moreover, Sai Tin Hydropower plant will soon be built for northern parts of Rakhine State. Previously, it was not possible to construct a hydropower plant due to scarcity of water in summer. But now it will soon be built after building water storage lake.

All local people with full Union spirit are to participate in the efforts for development of Rakhine State, a part of the Union.

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Minister inspects reclamation of plots of land in Labutta

YANGON, 28 Jan—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended a ceremony to open Ayeyawady jetty in Labutta township to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day on 26 January.



Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects land reclamation in Labutta.—PBANRDA

The jetty is 108 feet long, 12 feet wide and 10 feet high and it was built by Labutta Township Development Affairs Committee during 2008-2009 financial year with the funds of Development Affairs Department.

Next, the minister met with officials of the companies, members of district and township social organizations and townsenders at Shwenadi Hall in Labutta. In his meeting, the minister said plans are under way to upgrade Labutta into a model district and 66 KV power lines will be installed in the township.

A total of 4548 rural houses are under construction in Labutta and an 85 percent of the whole project has been covered. In addition, seven Cyclone Shelters are being built by companies.

U Win Shein appointed as Ambassador to Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Shein as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

MNA



Upon arrival at Land Reclamation Site (3rd mile camp) being implemented by the Development Affairs Department, the minister and party inspected progress in earth works and then gave instructions on measures to be taken for digging up 100 acres of land to use it as the dam.

Next, they looked into progress in building the 200-bed hospital and houses with the use of heavy machinery. Plots of land will be reclaimed. Roads will be built and power and drinking water will be supplied. Plots of land will be sold at reasonable price. Plots of land will be reclaimed to build cold storage. 66 KV power lines will be installed. Labutta will be upgraded into a model district with favourable conditions for social and economic affairs.

MNA

Myint Thaug (Srixon) tees off at IBTC Open Golf Championship.—MGF



IBTC Open Golf Championship concludes

YANGON, 28 Jan—The third round of IBTC Open Golf Championship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, mainly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar P.G.A and sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co., Ltd, was held at Ayetharyar golf resort in Taunggyi, Shan State (south), yesterday.

In professional golfers event, Myint Thaug (Srixon) stood first

with 216 strokes, Min Naing (Srixon) second with 220 strokes, Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) third with 221 strokes, Thein Zaw Myint (KM Golf Centre) and Kyaw Thiha (KM Golf Centre) fourth with 226 strokes each and Yin Htway (KM Golf Centre) fifth with 227 strokes.

In men's amateur golfers event, Bo Bo stood first with 227 strokes, Nay Bala Win Myint second with 229 strokes, Kyaw Thura third with 231 strokes

and Zaw Thet Htway fourth with 232 strokes.

With the aim of turning out professional golfers, main sponsor is International Beverages Trading Co., Ltd and co-sponsors are KBZ Bank Ltd., Air Bagan Ltd, Hotel Yangon, Ruby Dragon (Jade & Gems) Co., Ltd, Srixon, MGW Construction Ltd, Myanmar Red Star International Co Ltd, KM Golf Centre, ACCEL International Co Ltd,



Canon, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, MY Associates Co Ltd (Patronas), Tiger Head cement, Life Line Co Ltd (DHEA plus) and Eden Group Co Ltd.—MNA



Iraqi police inspect a car at a checkpoint in the neighbourhood of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq. As the sixth anniversary of the US-led invasion nears, there are ample signs that Baghdad is settling back into some regular rhythms, but it's still far from a comfortable trust that the war and its violent offshoots can be declared over.—INTERNET

Harming civilian not to serve the war on terror

KABUL, 28 Jan — Afghanistan's Presidential spokesman Hamayon Hamidzada on Tuesday stressed that harming civilians during the military operations against terrorism would not serve the war on terror.

"The government of Afghanistan once again emphasizes that inflicting casualties on civilians would not only erode the trust of people in the war against terrorism, but also damage the support to the government of

Afghanistan," Hamidzada told newsmen at a press briefing here.

He made the remarks in the wake of reported killing of civilians by the US-led Coalition forces in Afghanistan's eastern Laghman Province last Thursday. Over 20 civilians, according to local officials, were killed by air strikes outside Laghman's Provincial capital Mehterlam on Thursday while the US military disputed the claim, saying 15 militants

were killed in the raid.

"The government of Afghanistan condemns arbitrary operations that claim the lives of civilians," Hamidzada stressed.

Thousands of non-combatant Afghans have lost their lives in the US-led war on terror in Afghanistan over the past seven years and the bloody one was the killing of 91 persons in Shindand district of western Herat Province in August 2008.

Internet

Roadside bombing kills, wounds 14 in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 28 Jan—One civil mini-bus on Tuesday afternoon was struck by IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device) in southern Afghan Province of Kandahar, leaving at least four civilians dead and 10 more wounded, said an official.

Matiwullah Khan, the provincial police chief, told *Xinhua* that it occurred at around 3:30 pm local time (1100 GMT) when the mini-bus passing Jalai district of Kandahar Province hit roadside mines planted by militants resulting in four people dead and 10 more wounded, all civilians.

"Four women and one child were among the injured," he added.—*Internet*

A model poses with Viera full high-definition plasma TVs during a press event by Panasonic, a unit of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co, in Tokyo. Panasonic Corp said, on 28 Jan, 2009 it will cut 560 jobs in Asia due to the closure of two plants in the region, while declining to confirm a report saying the Japanese electronics giant will likely suffer its first net loss in six years.

INTERNET



Four security forces killed in suicide car bombing in N Iraq

MOSUL, 28 Jan—A suicide car bomber struck the office of a Kurdish party in the city of Mosul on Tuesday, killing four security members and wounding five others, a provincial police source said.

A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-borne vehicle into a checkpoint outside the office of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in the Faisaliyah neighbourhood in eastern Mosul, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The KDP is headed by Massud Barzani, president of the regional Kurdish government, which rules the autonomous region in northern Iraq.

The attack took place four days before the country's landmark provincial elections Nineveh Province, with its capital city Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, is said to be one of the last strongholds of al-Qaeda fighters in the war-torn country. —*Internet*



A man reflects a partial solar eclipse through the lens of a telescope while watching the phenomenon at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

US plans to send three more brigades to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—The US military plans to send three additional combat brigades to Afghanistan by mid-summer this year, Secretary of Defence Robert Gates told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday.

In his first Senate testimony as Pentagon's top leader of the Obama administration, Gates also said further US troop increase is possible, but it is still undecided.

He cautioned that sending too many forces would be a wrong signal in the eyes of the Afghans, who hope to see

their own security forces take the lead.

Gates also said US goals in Afghanistan must be "modest" and "realistic," stressing the US objective there should be getting rid of the terrorists, instead of building a prosperous nation.

On Iraq, Gates said the

US military is weighing options on how to withdraw troops from that country.

All the options and their respective risks are being presented to President Barack Obama, who will meet with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon on Wednesday, he added.

Internet

Five Taliban militants killed in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 28 Jan—Five Taliban militants including a local commander were killed during a clean-up operation in southern Afghan province of Helmand, said a police official on Tuesday.

Assadullah Sherzad, the provincial police chief told *Xinhua* that the incident took place on Monday afternoon when a group of Taliban rebels ambushed the combined patrol of Afghan National Army (ANA) and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Nawad district of Helmand province.

Sherzad said the combined forces retreated insurgents after hours of fighting, killing five of them, including Mullah Khalid, one local Taliban commander. "Several insurgents were also wounded but escaped under their fellows' cover," the police official added. "No casualties of ANA or ISAF have been reported so far."—*Internet*

China invests 29.5 bln yuan to provide “safe” water for residents

BEIJING, 28 Jan — The Chinese government spent approximately 29.5 billion yuan (4.3 billion US dollars) in 2008 to fortify dangerous reservoirs, provide rural residents with clean drinking water and to upgrade irrigating facilities.

Such expenditures accounted for 45 percent of the annual government investment in all sorts of water resources projects, said Water Resources Minister Chen Lei. The central government's

investment in all water resources projects totaled 65.54 billion yuan in 2008.

Of the total, 13 billion yuan was used to fortify 2,505 dangerous reservoirs and 5.9 billion yuan to build supporting projects for large irrigation systems and to upgrade others into water-efficiency ones.

By the end of 2000, 379 million rural dwellers nationwide have difficulties in getting safe drinking water.

Chen Lei said China began providing safe drinking water for an additional 48.24 million rural people last year. This year, another 60 million rural residents would get access to clean water.

Between 2000 and 2008, the water resources ministry said, China spent 61.8 billion yuan (9.04 billion US dollars) to provide 160 million rural people with clean water.

Xinhua



Ritual performers wearing costumes of the royal court of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) perform in front of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests at the Tiantan (Temple of Heaven) Park in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA

Malaysia expands services export fund

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Jan—The Services Export Fund (SEF), a fund established to assist Malaysian service providers in venturing globally, has recently been expanded to include a wider range of programmes and activities, local media reported on Wednesday.

The scope of the SEF was expanded in response to the global economic crisis and to assist Malaysian service providers to further expand overseas.

The SEF is managed by the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade), an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The expanded scope covers the organization of specialized marketing and follow-up missions, and hosting of project owners and key decision makers to Malaysia by Matrade.

The fund is available to a wide range of sectors, including the information and communication technology (ICT), healthcare, education, oil and gas, and construction sectors, the *New Straits Times* reported.

To date, the SEF has attracted a total of 603 applications from 312 companies, from a wide range of service sectors. Grants approved under the SEF are valued at 31.1 million ringgit (8.61 million US dollars).—Xinhua



Actors perform folk dances at a tourist resort of Chinese folk culture in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, on 27 Jan, 2009. A lot of tourists enjoy folk dances and makeup parade in the scenic spot during the Spring Festival holiday.—XINHUA

Israeli warplanes strike tunnels on Gaza border with Egypt

GAZA, 28 Jan—Israeli warplanes carried out at least two strikes on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt early on Wednesday, witnesses said.

The strikes were

believed to target tunnels used for smuggling goods and weapons into the Gaza Strip from Egypt.

The bombardment sent residents in the Gaza town of Rafah fleeing their

homes in panic. There was no immediate reports of any casualties.

The strikes have not yet been confirmed by the Israeli military.

Xinhua

Petrobras discovers gas in Brazil's southeastern coast

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Jan — Brazil's state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras announced on Monday that it has found gas in the country's southeastern coast.

The discovery was made at Block BM-S-7 in the shallow waters of the Santos Basin, off the coast of Sao Paulo state.

Petrobras said the gas was found 210 km off the coast and 214 metres under water above a salt layer.

The discovery is significant and its exploitation could be highly feasible due to its short distance below the water surface, the company said.

Block BM-S-7 is jointly explored by Petrobras and Spanish company Repsol. Petrobras holds a 63 percent stake and Repsol 37 percent.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Six family members shot dead in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan—Five children and their mother were fatally shot inside their home in Los Angeles on Tuesday morning, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) said.

The LAPD said they suspected the assailant to be the children's father who apparently committed suicide after the shooting.

The father called 911

about the shooting before killing himself, according to the LAPD.

“He called 911 and said his family was dead inside,” police officer Sam Park said. “We responded. We have multiple victims inside of the house.”

Police found notes inside the house in which the gunman referred to “job and work-related issues.”

“This was a financial and job related issue that led to the slayings,” Deputy Chief Kenneth Garner said. “In these tough economic times, there are other options. In my 32 years, I've never seen anything like this.”

All the children killed were under 10, including a set of 5-year-old girl twins and a set of 2-year-old boy twins, police said.—Xinhua



An aerial view shows people protesting against Amazon deforestation during the 2009 World Social Forum near the mouth of the Amazon River in the city of Belem, on 27 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA

Trade between NE China province, Russia exceeds \$11 bln in 2008

HARBIN, 28 Jan—Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, which borders Russia, saw 11.06 billion US dollars in foreign trade with its northern neighbour in 2008, representing a growth of 3.1 percent year-on-year, according to the provincial commerce department.

The trade volume made up 19.5 percent of China's total trade value with Russia, the report said.

The increase came after Russia lowered export prices on resource-oriented products such as timber. Trade was also improved by the depreciation of the US dollar and the Russian ruble, according to the department.

The province promoted exports such as automobiles, mechanical and electrical products.

The export of mechanical and electrical products to Russia hit 3.92 billion US dollars, up 76.8 percent than the previous year. Farm produce reached 1.48 billion US dollars, up 25 percent year-on-year. —Internet



A boy stands on a bike as officials of the departmental health services fumigate during a campaign against Dengue fever in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, on 27 Jan, 2009. Bolivian Health Ministry confirmed more than 4000 classic Dengue fever reports and the decease of three people due to Dengue hemorrhagic fever, the stronger version of this acute febrile disease.—INTERNET

22 killed in surging wave of violence in Mexico

MONTERREY, 28 Jan—Twenty-two people were found shot dead late Monday and Tuesday in northern Mexico, including four found on property belonging to the state-run oil giant Pemex, police said.

The killings are likely the result of the ongoing war between powerful drug cartels for control of lucrative access corridors to the United States, officials said.

Petroleos de Mexico workers found the bodies of the four men, some half-dressed and with tape over their eyes, piled up in a well on company property some 150 kilometres (93 miles) northeast of Monterrey, on the US-Mexican border.

The men had all been shot in the head, police in this prosperous and heavily industrialized city told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.—Internet

More than 1,000 chickens die from unknown disease in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 28 Jan—More than 1,000 local chickens have died from unknown disease in a village in Sindhuli district in central Nepal, the National News Agency RSS reported on Wednesday.

According to the RSS, the chickens died from the disease, that has spread for the past few days, said a local. She said 75 local chickens died in her house alone. They died with swollen throat and accumulation of water. The disease is not identified and the whole village, some 40 km southeast of Kathmandu, is in terror, the RSS said.

Technical team from the District Livestock Office has not reached so far, whereas technician of the office Tika Shrestha said the outbreak was because no medicines were given to the chickens in time.—Internet

Indonesian Gov't sets three requirements on investment in steel industry

JAKARTA, 28 Jan—Indonesian Industry Minister Fahmi Idris required steel investors in the country that they should have efficient technology applications, their production should be based in South Kalimantan, and they have to launch joint venture with local companies.

The Indonesian Business daily on Wednesday quoted the Ministry's Director General for Textile Machinery and Miscellany Ansari Bukhari as saying that the requirements are targeting the rapid growing of foreign investors in the industry.

Indonesia has an abundant resources of iron ores that are supplied for many steel manufacturer in the country. Thus, many transnational steel producers were very keen on investing in and establishing steel manufacturers in the country, such as Pohang Steel Co (Posco) with a total investment up to 1 billion US dollar and ArcelorMittal with a total investment up to 800 million dollars.

Internet



A fire department boat approaches a barge on fire in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour on 27 Jan, 2009. INTERNET

Moderate quake hits Papua, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 28 Jan—An earthquake with magnitude of 5.3 rocked Papua in easternmost of Indonesia on Wednesday, no report of damage or casualty, meteorology agency said here.

The quake struck at 08:34 Jakarta time (0134 GMT) with epicentre at 137 kilometres northeast Nabire of Papua and at 76 kilometres in depth, an official of the agency said.—Internet

Bomb blast kills two in Colombian capital

BOGOTA, 28 Jan—At least two people were killed and dozens of others injured in a bomb blast in Colombia's capital late on Tuesday, police said.

The explosion occurred around 0200 GMT outside a video store in an upscale northern Bogota neighbourhood.

City police chief Rodolfo Palomino said the bomb appeared to contain about 11 pounds (5 kg) of explosives and was placed in an automatic teller booth next to the store.

The Colombian government has offered a 45,000-US-dollar reward for information leading to those responsible for Tuesday's blast.

The previous attack that shook Bogota took place on 29 Dec. Police blamed the attack on leftist rebels with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Internet



Police officers inspect the area in front of a video store damaged by the explosion of a bomb that killed at least two people in Bogota, on 27 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Japan to deploy ships off Somalia

TOKYO, 28 Jan — Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada has ordered the dispatch of ships to fight pirates off Somalia.

He did not say how many ships would be sent or when, but told the military to assess what sort of force was needed. Japan's parliament and Prime Minister Taro Aso would need to pass a formal order before the ships could set off, a process expected to take a month.

Japan would be joining a multi-national effort against piracy which includes ships from the United States and China. "The pirates' activities off



Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force is only allowed to deploy defensively.—INTERNET

the Somali coast are a major threat not only to Japan but also to international society and it is a problem that we must deal with urgently," Mr Hamada said.

No Japanese ship has

been taken by pirates yet, the government said, but pirates have fired at three Japanese vessels. No-one was injured. Japan's decision to go ahead with a deployment took months of debate.—Internet

Bus hijacker surrenders in Bulgaria

SOFIA, 28 Jan — A Bulgarian man hijacked an intercity bus on Tuesday, apparently to draw attention to a car crash last year that caused his pregnant girlfriend to miscarry. He surrendered about 3 hours later.

Miroslav Blazhev allegedly took over the bus shortly after it left Sofia at

1 pm bound for Varna, a resort on the Black Sea, the *Sofia News Agency* reported. An official with the Biomet bus company said the bus had 36 passengers, an attendant and two drivers.

Blazhev said he wanted to see the man he claims was responsible for the August crash.

A journalist who was among the passengers convinced the hijacker he could help him get media attention for his story, the *Sofia Echo* reported. Blazhev, who had a gun and claimed to have a bomb, surrendered without incident about 4 pm without harming anyone.—Internet

Sea level along coastal China to rise 0.13 metre in 30 years

BEIJING, 28 Jan — The sea level along China's coastal areas will rise 0.13 meter in the next three decades, according to a report by the State Oceanic Administration (SOA).

The average increase in sea level has been about 2.6 millimetre per year in the past 30 years, 0.8 millimetre higher than the world's average, according to the administrati-

on's report of China's sea level changes.

The report said among all the coastal seas, the East China Sea saw the fastest rise in sea level, with an annual increase of 2.9 millimetre over the past three decades.

Li Xiaoming, director of the department of oceanic protection of the SOA, said global warming, earth subsidence and unusual climate pheno-

mena all attributed to the rise of sea level.

SOA statistics show that over the past 30 years, air and sea temperatures along China's coastal areas rose 1.1 Celsius and 0.9 Celsius respectively.

Li said the rise of sea level could add to damage caused by marine disasters such as storm tides, coast erosion, sea water encroachment and soil salinization.—Internet

Obama says ready to talk to Iran

DUBAI, 28 Jan — US President Barack Obama said America was prepared to extend a hand of peace to Iran if it "unclenched its fist" and that the time was ripe for Israel and the Palestinians to resume peace negotiations.

Choosing an Arab station for his first formal TV interview as president, Obama also sought to heal US ties with the Arab and Muslim world, telling them "Americans are not your enemy."

During the eight-year administration of former President George W Bush, US relations with many Arab and Muslim nations were damaged by the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and Bush's initial reluctance to push for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

"It is impossible for us to think only in terms of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and not think in terms of what's happening with Syria or Iran or Lebanon or Afghanistan

and Pakistan," he told the Dubai-based satellite channel Al Arabiya.

"It is important for us to be willing to talk to Iran, to express very clearly where our differences are, but (also) where there are potential avenues for progress," Obama said.

"If countries like Iran are willing to unclench their fist, they will find an extended hand from us."

Iran said it awaited changes in US policies towards it.—Internet



A frog sits on a banana leaf at a garden in Kuala Lumpur.

Time bandits: pair filches Rolex watches

Bad timing befell a Farmington Hills man who tried to sell a costly Rolex watch, only to have it stolen from him along with his own \$10,000 Rolex. Larry Nagel told WDIV-TV in Detroit that a woman who'd seen an online ad for some of his watches on Craig's List met him at a Southfield coffee shop.

Nagel said he tried to put one on her wrist but the buckle wouldn't clasp, so he tried to put it on his own wrist after taking off his Rolex. That's when a man ran up, snatched it and fled.

Nagel followed the thief but remembered his other watches were on the table. By the time he returned, the woman and the other Rolex were gone.

Police are trying to identify the thieves from security camera images.

Armoured truck driver allegedly tapes cash to legs

Talk about being strapped for cash. An armoured truck driver was jailed on Friday in Grapevine on a felony theft charge after more than \$100,000 was found strapped to his legs. Police Lt Todd Dearing said 31-year-old Elkin Strozier of Arlington was held on \$10,000 bond.

Strozier was arrested on Thursday and charged with theft of between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Dearing declined to say how much cash was stolen, but says all of the money was recovered.

Strozier allegedly cut open a cash bag while his partner was out of the vehicle, taped the money to his legs and reclosed the bag. A bank reported cash was missing after a delivery was made.

Police said Strozier confessed when confronted by his boss.

Malaysian woman charged with smuggling drug in bra

Australia has charged a Malaysian woman with attempting to smuggle heroin into Melbourne by hiding the drug in her bra. Customs Department officials say they suspected the woman may have been carrying drugs when she arrived on Thursday at Melbourne International Airport on a flight from Bangkok.

A female officer conducted a frisk search and found "inconsistencies" around her bra, which turned out to be a package

Unreturned library book leads to woman's arrest

An Iowa woman has been arrested because failed to return a library book.

Thirty-nine-year-old Shelly Koontz was arrested on Thursday night on a fifth-degree theft charge. She is accused of keeping "The Freedom Writers Diary," which she checked out from the public library in nearby Jesup in April.

Police say the book—which is about a high school teacher's effort to inspire students to write—is valued at \$13.95.

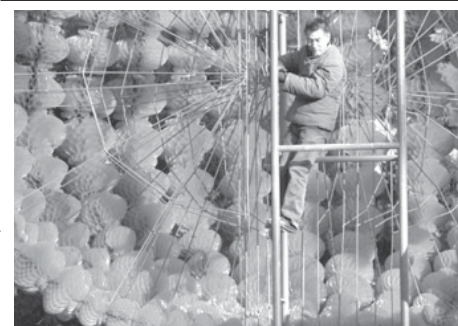
Court records show library employees tried repeatedly to contact Koontz by phone and mail. A police officer even visited her home last September.

Officials at the Buchanan County jail say Koontz was released after posting \$250 bond. No telephone listing for Koontz could be found in the Independence area.

NEWS ALBUM



Thailand's "Scorpion Queen" Kanchana Kaetkaew, 38, poses with scorpions at the Ripley's Believe It or Not museum in Pattaya.



A worker prepares red lantern decorations at a park in Beijing.



Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein visits No. 2 Automobile Factory (Htonbo).—MNA

Automobiles assembled in Htonbo

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein on 24 January viewed assembling of doors, floors, front and rear parts of automobiles with the use of spot welding machines, manufacturing of the rear parts and oil tanks of vehicles and assembling of frames at Automobile Assembling Workshop of No. 2 Automobile Factory (Htonbo)

and gave necessary instructions.

At Automobile Assembling Workshop, the minister inspected procedures of assembling the machine parts of automobiles on assembly line and instructed officials to pay attention to quality control of assembling in manufacturing of double cabs, make efforts for assembling the large number of automobiles, upgrade the

quality of Mazda Jeep and sell the automobiles at reasonable price for public use. The minister also inspected construction of Painting Boot, production process of battery workshop and the construction site of Waste Water Treatment Plant. Later, the minister urged officials to take measures of worksite safety, prevent danger of wastage and pollution.

MNA

Younger generations of Kachin State have a promising future

Article: *Kyaw Kyaw (Bhamo)*; Photos: *Htay Aung (Kyemon)*

(from page 16) responding to the guidance, the ministry had formed the Education and Training Department to step up the tasks; that the 28 schools provided free school education from third standard to matriculation to needy youths of border areas and spent funds of the border areas development project on their basic needs and other requirements; that



U Kyaw Hsan of Myitkyina Border Areas and National Races Development Office.

the trainees that had passed matriculation exam were provided free

education at the Nationality Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon) and (Mandalay) under the ministry; that on completion of tertiary education, they were conferred B.A and B.Sc degrees, and AGTI diploma and were appointed at the offices and projects in border areas; that outstanding students attended M.A, M.Sc, Prelim, M.Res, M.E, and B.Tech courses; and that they would soon participate in the nation-building tasks as intellectuals and intelligentsia.

He added that they had opened 36 vocational training centres for women in addition to four technical institutes in Laukkai and Pangsan in Shan State (North), Mongla in Shan State (East), and Sittway in Rakhine State and gave free education to trainees; and that Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas in Kachin State Commander of Northern Command was making con-



Supervisor for Development of Kachin State U Zaw Win Aung.

stant inspection tours and fulfilling requirements to open youths development training schools in Myitkyina, Putao and Bhamo, and vocational training schools in Putao, Nanyun, Bhamo, Dunban, and Dawphonyan in Kachin State.

Naga national U Kyaw Hsan of Myitkyina Border Areas and National Races Development Office said that he pursued education till he was at the seventh standard in Nayan

would repay the gratitude of the government by working hard for further development of border areas.

Principal U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of No. (2) Training School for Development of the



Principal U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of No. (2) Training School for Development of the Youth of Border Areas.

ment of the Youth of Border Areas said that the children were nationals of Kachin, Shan and Naga from Waingmaw, Chipwe, Tanai, Nanyun and Mogaung; that he had to show great patience in

teaching and nurturing them because they were from various regions; that on holidays, they taught them subjects on Union Spirit, culture and ways to blessings in order that they would become reliable citizens; that on summer vacation, they taught schoolboys the arts of handicraft, and schoolgirls, music, dancing and vocational education; that schoolchildren had to study and do physical exercise under a timetable; that they were encouraged to watch MRTV and Myawady TV programmes to be able to catch up with what was going on around the nation; and that they were served nutritious meals and given medical checks once a week.

As a result of the prudent projects, border areas now have a growing educated population who will shoulder State's duties.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 26-1-2009



Schoolgirls in a sports event to mark the 61st Independence Day.



Schoolboys playing Sepak Takraw.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects cooking food with the use of bio-gas at house of farmer U Maung Me in Maungnibyin Village, Sittway Township.—MNA

Railroad to be constructed to link Sittway...

(from page 1)

The Chairman of the Township PDC submitted the reports on the regional facts and requirements.

After delivering an address, the Prime Minister presented exercise books, medicines and books to Township Education Officer U Tin Shwe, Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Mya Mya Than and Head of Township IPRD U Htay Win.

At Myebon BEHS, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements after meeting with the headmistress and teachers.

They flew over to Minbya where they were welcomed by Township PDC U Nay Lin Tun and officials.

At Ramong Hall, the Prime Minister met with township level officials, members of social

organizations and townsenders. Chairman of the Township PDC U Nay Lin Tun presented reports on the regional facts, progress of agriculture and livestock breeding.

After giving a speech, the Prime Minister handed medicines, exercise books and pencils to Township Medical Officer Dr Thein Tun and Township Education Officer U Aung Chan Tha.

On arrival at Ponnagyun Township, they viewed development of the township in a motorcade.

At the hall of the township, the Prime Minister cordially met with departmental officials, social organization members and townsenders. Afterwards, the Prime Minister donated books, exercise books and

medicines to Head of Township IPRD U Hla Baw Thu, Township Medical Officer Dr Kam Po and Township Education Officer Daw Shwe Nu Aye.

Next, the Prime Minister and party left Ponnagyun and arrived back in Sittway in the evening.

Uplift of Living Standard

On 26 January morning, at the house of farmer U Maung Me in Maungnibyin Village of Sittway Township, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party viewed cooking food with the use of bio-gas. Afterwards, the Prime Minister instructed officials to **enable the families of local people to carry out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks for earning surplus income,**

to strive for uplift of living standard of the local people by supplying electricity through bio-gas obtained from animal waste and to use the liquid from the bio-digesters in cultivation of vegetables.

The Prime Minister and party left for Kyauktaw by Tatmadaw helicopter and arrived there at 11.35 a.m. They were welcomed by Township PDC Chairman U Aung Kyaw Oo and officials.

After inspecting Kissapanadi Bridge on Yangon-Sittway Road, the Prime Minister met with township level officials, members of social organizations and local people at the hall of Township DAG.

Chairman of the Township PDC U Aung Kyaw Oo briefed the Prime Minister on

regional development and progress in education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

After delivering an address, the Prime Minister presented medicines, exercise books and publications for self-reliant village libraries to



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents books and journals to self-reliant village libraries at An Town Hall.—MNA

Township Education Officer U Wai San Hla, Township Medical Officer Dr Win Maung Oo and Head of Township IPRD Daw Aye Mya Than. Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

At Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw Township, the Prime Minister offered flowers, water, lights and gold foils to the Buddha Image.

After donating cash to the funds of the Buddha Image, the Prime Minister inspected all-round renovation tasks of the image.

On arrival at MraukU Township, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of the Township PDC U Tint Naing Oo and officials.

At MraukU Hotel, the Prime Minister met township level officials, members of social organizations and local people. Chairman of the Township PDC U Tint Naing Oo reported on progress of the township and requirements.

After giving a speech, the Prime Minister handed exercise books, medicines and publications to officials.

In the evening, they arrived at An.

Yesterday morning, the Prime Minister and party met with township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at the town hall in An Township.

Chairman of the Township PDC U Tin Htay submitted the reports on regional development, cultivation of monsoon paddy and sufficiency of paddy and edible oil in the region.

(See page 9)

Rakhine State is a part of Myanmar which is home to national races since time immemorial, and therefore residents are to be equipped with the Union Spirit which is a driving force to serve the interests of the country.

Railroad to be constructed to link Sittway...

(from page 8)

The Prime Minister donated exercise books, medicines and publications to officials.

Next, they left for Kyaukpyu Township by helicopter. They were welcomed by Commander of Danyawady Naval Region Command Captain Aung Zaw Win (Navy) and departmental officials.

At Rammawady Hall, the Prime Minister met district and township level officials, social organization members and townsenders. Chairman of District PDC U Aung Kyaw Soe reported on regional development, progress in education and health sectors and requirements.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, who accompanied the Prime Minister submitted a report on benefits of mangroves and conservation task.

After delivering an address, the Prime Minister donated medicines, exercise books and books to officials.

In Yanbye Township, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Cmdr Nay Moe Thet of Danyawady Naval Region Command and departmental officials.

At Yanbye Township GAD, the Prime Minister met with departmental personnel, social organization members and local people.

First, Chairman of Yanbye township PDC U

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets people who attend the meeting at the hall of Kyauktaw Township General Administration Department.

MNA



Aung Kyaw Soe reported to the Prime Minister on development tasks, conditions of agriculture and livestock services, plans for preparedness against national disasters and requirements.

In connection with the reports, the Prime Minister made arrangements to fulfil the requirements and then made a speech. Next, he presented exercise books, medicines and publications to self-reliant library through township education officer U Nyo Tun, acting township medical officer Dr Sit Tun Aung and head of township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aung Tin Kyi.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party left Yanbye by helicopter and arrived at Manaung, where they were welcomed by Cmdr Min Zaw of Danyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters and

departmental officials.

At Aungzayya Hall of Manaung Township Basic Education High School, the Prime Minister met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders.

Chairman of Manaung township PDC U Nyi Nyi Lwin reported

to the Prime Minister on development tasks, conditions of agriculture and livestock services and requirements.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister made a speech and then presented exercise books, medicines and publications to the self-reliance library through TEO Daw Hla May Saw, township medical officer Dr San Lwin and head of

IPRD U Thein Tun Aung.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party left Manaung by helicopter and arrived at Taungup, where they were welcomed by Lt-Col Yu Khine of Local Battalion and departmental officials.

medical officer Dr San Hlaing and head of IPRD U Myint Shwe.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present and left Taungup by helicopter and arrived at Thandwe after observing Thahtay Creek Hydropower Project Site from the helicopter.

Prime Minister

extension of the runway from 5,500 ft to 7,000 ft.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for the work and flew back to Nay Pyi Taw.

Divide-and-rule Policy

At the meetings with departmental officials and members of social organizations on the

Thahtaychaung hydropower plant project and An Chaung hydropower plant project in Rakhine State are under way and arrangements are being made to construct Sai Tin hydropower plant.

Chairman of Taungup township PDC U Soe Than reported to the Prime Minister on development tasks, conditions of agriculture and livestock services and requirements.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister made a speech and then presented exercise books, medicines and publications to the self-reliance library through TEO U Tun Myint, township

General Thein Sein and party met with departmental officials and members of social organizations at Dwarawady Hall in Thandwe today.

At the meeting, U Myat Kyaw, Chairman of Thandwe Township Peace and Development Council, reported on development tasks, and education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors.

After fulfilling the requirements of the town, the Prime Minister presented medicines, exercise books and books to self-reliant libraries through responsible personnel.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party went by air to Thandwe where Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on plans for

inspection tour of Rakhine State, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that Rakhine State lagged behind in development due to the geographical conditions and as peace and tranquillity did not prevail in Rakhine State in the past due to the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists during their rule. Today, the Tatmadaw government has been making efforts for development of Rakhine State. The government spent a huge sum of money on construction of Yangon-Sittway Road and Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road and measures are being taken to upgrade them. In Rakhine State, a railroad will be constructed to link Sittway with An and with the railroad on the west bank of Ayeyawady River, the Prime Minister said.

(See page 10)



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets state/district/township level departmental personnel at office of Information and Public Relations Department in Sittway.—MNA

Railroad to be constructed to link Sittway...

(from page 9)

Thahtaychaung hydropower plant project and An Chaung hydropower plant project in Rakhine State are under way and arrangements are being made to construct Sai Tin hydropower plant.

The Prime Minister also urged service personnel to abide by rules and regulations. He also urged teachers to nurture students to become educated and good citizens and to be equipped with the Union Spirit. **Regarding the health sector, the Prime Minister urged staff of the Ministry of Health not only to provide health care services at the hospitals but also to go to grassroot levels and to provide medical care to the people so that they can enjoy good health and longevity. He also stressed the need for cooperation of the people in implementing the disaster preparedness.** Rakhine State is a part of

Myanmar which is home to national races since time immemorial, and therefore residents are to be equipped with the Union Spirit which is a driving force to serve the interests of the country.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan who accompanied the Prime Minister met with state/district/township level departmental personnel of the Ministry of Information at the office of Information and Public Relations Department in Sittway on 24 January and gave instructions on plans to be carried out in Rakhine State and works to be done department-wise.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun who accompanied the Prime Minister on 24 January inspected banking services at Myanmar Economic Bank. After hearing reports presented by state/district managers, the minister pointed out that

MEB's banking services should contribute towards regional development.

Next, the minister met with service personnel of Myanmar Economic Bank, Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department, Myanmar Small Loans Department and Pension Department at the state manager's office of Myanmar Economic Bank. The minister heard reports on work plans, progress of works and future programme presented by officials and urged them to strive for the regional development tasks by realizing the aims and objectives of the State and aims and duties of the ministry.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo who accompanied the Prime Minister looked into public health care services at Sittway People's Hospital on 24 January. On 25 January, the deputy minister met with health staff of Pauktaw Township People's Hospital and visited Myaypon Township People's Hospital.

MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint views supply of drinking water outside a prefabricated clinic.—MNA

Prefabricated clinics for local people in Bogale, Pyapon, Dedaye Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accompanied by Acting Director-General Dr Win Myint of Health Department, Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Bansarn Bunnag, Singaporean Ambassador Mr. Robert Chua Hian Kong, Emergency Response Officer Mr. Teis Piel Christensen of International Organization for Migration (IOM) and officials inspected health care services at Setsan Village Health Centre in Bogale Township on 25 January.

A ceremony to hand over documents related to prefabricated clinic followed. The acting director-general, Mr. Teis Piel Christensen of IOM and the head of Bogale

Township Health Department signed the documents.

The minister and Thai Ambassador presented medicines and medical equipment to the head of township Health Department and the acting-director-general spoke words of thanks.

The minister inspected prefabricated clinic and medical equipment and supply of drinking water.

Next, the minister visited worksite of construction of 16-bed station hospital.

The minister attended the ceremony to hand over documents related to prefabricated clinic held at Daw Nyein Village in Pyapon Township. The acting director-general, Mr. Teis Piel Christensen of IOM and the head of Pyapon Township Health

Department signed the documents.

Next, the minister and Singaporean Ambassador presented medicines and medical equipment for the village health center to the head of township Health Department.

The minister looked into prefabricated clinic and greeted local people.

Similarly, the ceremony to hand over documents related to prefabricated clinic was held at Kyodah Village Health Centre. The minister and IOM officer presented medicines and medical equipment to be used in providing health care services to storm survivors to the head of Dedaye Township Health Department.

Next, the minister inspected the prefabricated clinic donated by IOM. —MNA

MWJA CEC meeting held

YANGON, 28 Jan — Central Executive Committee of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held its meeting 1/2009 on the second floor of Sarpay Beikman Building, here, this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of

the MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung).

Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) reported on the minutes of the previous meeting. Leaders of the work committees submitted reports on their

respective sectors. All the participants discussed opening of the Journalism Course No. 1 to be conducted by MWJA at its hall beginning 1 February.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.—MNA

Respects paid to elderly librarians

YANGON, 28 Jan — The Myanmar Librarians Association organized its 11th respect-paying ceremony at the

Universities Dhammayon, here on 24 January.

Chairman U Thein Shwe and members of the association presented gifts

and paid respects to 26 veteran librarians. U Tin Oo and U Thaw Kaung gave counsel to them.

MNA



Specialists from AMRI Hospital of India giving medical talks at the Traders Hotel.—MNA

AMRI Hospital of India holds medical talks

YANGON, 28 Jan — Specialists from AMRI Hospital of India gave medical talks at the Traders Hotel here yesterday afternoon.

General Manager Mr Yogesh Joshi of International Business & Patient Service of AMRI Hospital extended greetings. Director of Gynaecology & IVF Department Dr Pronab Dosgupta gave talks on treatment for obstetrics and gynaecology;

Director of Cardio Thoracic & Vascular Surgery Department Dr Km Mandana; on cardiac operation; and Director of Neurology Department Professor RN Bhatta Chary, on neurological operation.

AMRI, a member of International Hospital Federation (IHF), is based in Kolkata and has won ISO-9001: 2000 medals.

AMRI provides treatment to its patients with effective medicines,

advanced therapies and modern medical equipment at reasonable prices.

For further details, contact the hospital at Room F 28, 2nd Floor, Building (B), Pale Condominium, corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Saya San Road in Bahan Township, Yangon, dial 951 554291, 541312, Fax 545983, or get online through amrihospital.com. —MNA

UK urges global response as world's hungry to hit 1 bln

MADRID, 28 Jan—World leaders, major businesses and the United Nations were urged to sign up to a new international agreement on Tuesday that will lift millions of people out of hunger and better prepare the world for future food crises.

Speaking at a world summit in Madrid, Spain, which ended on Tuesday, British International Development Minister Ivan Lewis set out a proposed pact that will for the first time establish a global response to food shortages that will double both food production in

Africa and the growth of the agriculture sector in Asia. This Britain-led action is expected to significantly boost agricultural production, reduce the vulnerability of the poor to food price rises and hold countries to account on their commitments to the poorest nations. It is estimated that 950 million people still face a daily battle against hunger and the United Nations now forecasts that this figure could rise above one billion this year. That would mean one in six of the world's population will be unable

to obtain the food they need to live adequately. People living in 25 of the poorest developing countries are considered most at risk. These countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Ethiopia will be specifically targeted as part of the new approach.

MNA/Xinhua



The moon casts a shadow at the sun blocking it partially in a partial solar eclipse as it sets on Monday 26 Jan, 2009 at Manila's bay, Philippines.—INTERNET

France arrests Somali pirates in Gulf of Aden

PARIS, 28 Jan—A French frigate has arrested nine Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden, an Army spokesman said on Tuesday, part of international efforts to fight gangs that hijack commercial vessels in busy shipping lanes.

Including Tuesday's arrests, France has captured 57 pirates in seven such operations since last April, spokesman Christophe Prasuk said. Previous captives have been handed over to French or Somali authorities, and France has yet to decide how to proceed with the nine, he added.

MNA/Reuters

Russia bans 80,000 borrowers from travelling abroad

MOSCOW, 28 Jan—Russian bailiffs have recovered millions of roubles in debt from delinquent borrowers by barring them from travelling abroad until they pay up. Government bailiffs said they had signed orders for 82,000 foreign travel bans and recovered almost 800 million roubles (24.25 million US dollars) from

debtors—some of whom only found out when they arrived at the border with their bags packed. "The scheme has been very effective, a phenomenal success," Natalya Selivanova, a spokeswoman for the Federal Bailiff Service, said on Tuesday. The foreign travel bans, introduced early last year, were issued only after

several warnings and a court decision, Federal Bailiff Service Director Artur Parfenchikov said. "If someone can't keep up his payments on a 100,000-US-dollar debt and then buys a package tour to Thailand ... that's not just illegal, it's immoral," he told a briefing in Moscow.—MNA/Reuters

Firefighters find 25 bodies in Madagascar store

AANTANANARIVO, 28 Jan—Firefighters found 25 charred bodies in a looted department store in Madagascar's capital on Tuesday, a day after some of the worst anti-government violence in years on the Indian Ocean island.

The leader of the protests, Antananarivo's 34-year-old mayor and opposition leader Andry Rajoelina, called for peaceful demonstrations in the city's main square against President Marc Ravalomanana's government to resume on Wednesday.

On Monday tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets, burning the state-owned television and radio station when demonstrations turned violent.

A teenager and a policeman were killed in the disturbances, which revived memories of past political volatility on Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island. The unrest will not help the government's efforts to present the nation as a tourist haven and sound destination for investment in mining and oil.

MNA/Reuters



David Andersen, center, helps Wendy Stupka, right, dig her car out of the snow along Clifton Blvd. in Lakewood, Ohio on Wednesday, 28 Jan, 2009. A winter storm dumped heavy snow across much of the Midwest, closing schools and causing power outages and airline delays and cancellations.—INTERNET

Germany govt. approves new economic stimulus package

BERLIN, 28 Jan—The German Government approved on Tuesday the new economic stimulus package of 50 billion euros (about 66.8 billion US dollars) to boost German economy.

The new package was first settled by Social Democrats (SPD), Christian Social Union (CSU) and Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the three coalition parties of German Government, on January 12 night. "The economic package is to against the global financial crisis," said Merkel. "We will make sure the measures are implemented as soon as possible." The aim of the package is to help German economy withstand the current crisis and become stronger after it, she said. The German Government has to borrow more money to pay for the measures, which increase infrastructure investment and lower taxes. Merkel said increasing new borrowing was her "most difficult domestic political decision" ever made. She promised to set up a mechanism to ensure the repayments. The new package is said to be used as a voting measure before the general election at the end of September, according to the report of German News Agency DPA.—MNA/Xinhua

China's energy product imports grow slower

BEIJING, 28 Jan—Growth in China's energy product imports slowed down in the first 11 months of 2008, partly due to the effect of the ongoing global economic downturn and price fluctuations in the international markets, General Administration of Customs said on Wednesday.

Between January and November, China bought from abroad 240 million tons of energy products, a growth of 3.7 per cent on the same period of 2007. The growth rate was 9.7 percentage points lower year-on-year. The imports were valued at 158.6 billion US dollars, up 74 per cent.

The total arrivals included 164.52 million tons of crude oil, up 9.5 per cent, 35.22 million tons of refined oil, up 13.1 per cent, 2.15 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), down 43.6 per cent, 3.14 million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG), up 18.1 per cent, and 38.11 million tons of coal, down 18.4 per cent.

Of the total imports, 54.9 per cent came from Asia, and 30.8 per cent from Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven killed in Colombian paramilitary clashes

BOGOTA, 28 Jan—At least seven people were killed in clashes between two paramilitary groups for control of the drug trafficking trade in northwest Choco Province, regional peace advisers said on Tuesday.

Luis Murillo, adviser to the provincial government, said "the clashes began last week and aimed to take territorial control of the distribution and commercialization of cocaine in the region".

After the demobilization of the United Self-Defence of Colombia (AUC) in April 2006, former members organized criminal gangs to take the control of drug trafficking and combat other groups in different zones of the country.

Murillo said the current clashes are between the "El Rastrojo" and "Las Aguilas" gangs in Alto Candoto. Police have identified four of the dead, but declined to say whether they were gang members.

MNA/Xinhua



An American Flamingo stands outside in the snow at Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington on 27 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
INVITATION TO QUOTATIONS/TENDER**

Sealed quotations/tender are invited by the Myanma Port Authority, for the supply of the following items;

- (1) 40 Ton Rubber Tyred Gantry Crane (Tender)
- (2) Spare Parts For 30.5 Ton Quay Side Container Crane (Machinery & Electrical)
- (3) Spare Parts For Rubber Tyre Gantry Crane (Machinery & Electrical)
- (4) Spare Parts For P.P.M./Kalmar/Fantuzzi Reach Stacker (Machinery & Electrical)
- (5) Spare Parts For Portal Crane (Machinery & Electrical)

Quotation (or) Tender forms and documents are available at the Stores Department, Seik Kan Township, Myanma Port Authority, starting from 30-1-2009 during office hours. (Closing date & time 5-3-2009 at 14:00 hrs)

For further details, please contact telephone number 292334,292292 and 292301.

**Controller of Stores
Myanma Port Authority**

**Scarlett Keeling's organs
'destroyed after autopsy'
in Goa**

PANAJI, 28 Jan—Authorities in the Indian resort state of Goa have destroyed most of the organs of a British girl who was found dead on a beach almost a year ago, her mother's lawyer said today.

Fiona MacKeown has been fighting for the return of her daughter Scarlett Keeling's full remains since her death in the former Portuguese colony on February 18 last year so that she can be buried.

Mrs MacKeown is expected in India for the first anniversary of the 15-year-old's death and could be given some of her daughter's remaining internal organs. But her Indian lawyer Vikram Varma said: "The substantial portion which is critical for forensic examination has been destroyed."

That included the kidneys and liver, which are "crucial" for the British post-mortem examination to determine exactly how Scarlett died, Mr Varma said.

Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said today that the destruction was deliberate to prevent the British coroner from contradicting Indian police claims that Scarlett drowned after taking a cocktail of drink of drugs.

Two autopsies have already been conducted on Scarlett's body in India. The first was inconclusive but the second suggested she could have been murdered. The organs were removed during both examinations and destroyed, Mr Varma said.—*Internet*

**TRADE MARK CAUTION
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Dated: 29 January 2009

Statins may treat blood vessel disorder

SALT LAKE CITY, 28 Jan—A blood vessel disorder that can cause fatal hemorrhagic strokes, seizures or paralysis in mice can be treated with statin drugs, US researchers have found.

University of Utah Health Science researchers said that if the results of a study in mice are confirmed in a pilot trial with people, statins could provide a safe, inexpensive treatment for cerebral cavernous malformation, a disorder with no known drug therapy. Dr Dean Y Li, director of the Molecular Medicine Programme at the University of Utah who was an author of the study, said brain surgery or radiation treatment has been the only option for cerebral cavernous malformation patients.

"But because of the risks in those operations, neurosurgeons are reluctant to perform them unless the patient is in immediate danger," Li said in a statement. "Our study proposes a potential strategy for a simple drug therapy that could cost only a few dollars a month at a pharmacy."

However, the animal

studies must first be evaluated in a pilot clinical trial in humans being initiated, Li said. Cerebral cavernous malformation is a disorder in which blood vessels in the brain become dilated and weakened, and leak blood, causing strokes, headaches, seizures or other problems, explained Li.

Internet

**Man spends two days
trapped under sofa**

LONDON, 28 Jan—A British man survived more than two days trapped under his sofa by sipping from a bottle of whisky, it was reported today.

Joe Galliot fell against the sofa during a power cut at his home in Somerset, southwest England, and could not free himself because of back problems.

He remained stuck for 60 hours in that position — during which time a bottle of whisky rolled close enough for him to open it — until a neighbour became concerned that Mr Galliot's curtains had not been drawn for two days.

"The whole settee tipped over catching me like a rat in a trap," the 65-year-old told. "I took a sip of (the whisky) and thought, well this isn't too bad."

Internet

**Thieves target Mexico
airport, shoot Frenchman**

MEXICO CITY, 28 Jan—Thieves apparently targeting people who exchange money at Mexico City's international airport shot a French citizen in the head on Tuesday, and authorities warned that gangs have put lookouts at exchange windows in the terminal. The 55 year-old French biotechnology researcher, who works at a Mexican university, was attacked and robbed of euro4,800 (\$6,336) on a street near the airport, assistant city prosecutor Luis Vasquez and police said. He is in serious condition

at a local hospital.

Officials at the French embassy said they could not confirm the victim's name or home town.

Mexico City police chief Manuel Mondragon said criminal gangs have posted lookouts at some of the money exchange businesses inside the airport. The lookouts tip off associates waiting outside who rob the victims after they leave the terminal. The gangs often use extreme violence. The Frenchman's driver testified that two cars appeared to follow them after they left the airport, then cut them off, police said. One man got out with a gun and shot the victim when he refused to hand over the bag containing the money.—*Internet*

Phone led teen to threaten parents

LAUREL, 28 Jan—Police in Delaware say they have arrested a 16-year-old girl who allegedly threatened her parents with knives after they took away her cell phone.

Delaware State Police said they were called to a Laurel home about 3 am Sunday by the girl's parents, who had locked themselves inside their bedroom while their daughter threatened them from outside and attacked their door with knives, the New Castle-Wilmington (Del.) News Journal reported on Tuesday. The girl's father told officers he had taken away the teenager's phone after suspecting she had stolen money from her mother to purchase minutes.

Police said the girl put down her two large kitchen knives after speaking to officers for about 10 minutes. She was arrested and charged with possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony, two counts of aggravated menacing, terroristic threatening, disorderly conduct, theft, criminal mischief and possession of a deadly weapon by a person prohibited.—*Internet*

Iceland sets major whaling quota

LONDON, 28 Jan—Iceland's fisheries ministry has issued whaling quotas substantially enlarged from those in previous years, as the government prepares to leave office. The quotas would allow catching of 100 minke whales and 150 fin whales annually for the next five years. The incoming interim administration is likely to be led by parties opposed to whaling, and may cancel the move.

The move comes just after details emerged of an eventual possible deal between pro- and anti-whaling nations. Environmental groups swiftly condemned the announcement by fisheries minister Einar Gudfinnsson. "This is basically an act of sabotage, an act of bitterness, against the incoming government," said Arni Finnsson from the Iceland Nature Conservation Association (INCA).—*Internet*

Acknowledgment

"President of the company U San Nyein and Manager Mr. Teo Tiong Heng of Kai Guan Co., Singapore opened the company and Mr. Teo is not an employee of NTN. He did not represent NTN Bearing Singapore in the opening of the company."

"KTK distributes various kinds of NTN bearings but was not appointed as the Sole Agent of NTN products in Myanmar."



A policeman frisks a motorist in Baghdad's Doura district on 27 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET

Mercury found in some corn syrup

MINNEAPOLIS, 28 Jan — US researchers say they've found mercury in samples of high fructose corn syrup and more than a dozen products containing the sweetener.

A study published in the journal Environmental Health found mercury in nearly 50 percent of tested samples of high fructose corn syrup. A separate study by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy found mercury in nearly one-third of 55 popular food and beverage

products where the sweetener is the first- or second-highest labeled ingredient, the institute said in a news release on Monday.

Dr David Wallinga, a co-author in both studies, said detectable levels of mercury were found in nine of the 20 samples tested. Researchers said the corn syrup was likely contaminated with mercury through a caustic soda often used to separate corn starch from the corn kernel. "The use of mercury cells to produce

caustic soda can contaminate caustic soda, and ultimately (the corn syrup), with mercury," the report said. Industry documents cited in the Environmental Health study said a handful of plants still make the caustic soda by mixing a briny solution in electrified vats of mercury, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Corn syrup manufacturers insist their products are mercury-free, the newspaper said.

Internet



Residents bow to the head (bottom R) of their village and other seniors during a ceremonial event in a village in Gangneung, about 240 km (149 miles) east of Seoul on 27 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



This image provided by Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center, shows the nursing staff posing for a photograph after delivering octuplets to a mother, on 26 Jan, 2009 in Bellflower, Calif.—INTERNET

Front part of the brain can hold memories

DALLAS, 28 Jan — US scientists say they've discovered individual nerve cells in the front part of the brain can hold memories for about one minute.

Researchers from UT Southwestern Medical Center said their study of mice is the "first to identify the specific signal that establishes non-permanent cellular memory and reveals how the brain holds temporary information." Assistant Professor Don Cooper, senior author, said the research has implications for addiction, attention disorders and stress-related memory loss.

"Researchers have

known permanent memories are stored when the excitatory amino acid glutamate activates ion channels on nerve cells in the brain to reorganize and strengthen the cells' connections with one another," the scientists said, noting that the process takes too long to buffer, or temporarily hold, rapidly incoming information.

The researchers found rapid-fire inputs less than a second long initiate a cellular memory process in single cells lasting as long as a minute — a process called metabolic glutamate transmission.—Internet

Wearing masks effective against flu, SARS

SYDNEY, 28 Jan — Donning a face mask is an easy way to boost protection from severe respiratory illnesses such as influenza and SARS, Australian researchers said.

Lead author Raina MacIntyre of the University of New South Wales found adult mask wearers in the home were four times more likely than non-wearers to be protected against respiratory viruses, including the common cold or severe acute respiratory syndrome. However, convincing a reluctant public and healthcare workers to wear masks may prove to be a struggle, MacIntyre said. The findings, pub-

lished in Emerging Infectious Diseases, have global implications and are particularly relevant to efforts to combat the spread of flu pandemics and other emerging respiratory diseases such as SARS, MacIntyre said.

"In the event of a severe pandemic, demand for protection could become a law and order issue," MacIntyre said in a statement. "In a crisis, vaccine development is likely to be delayed and drugs may be in short supply or not available at all, so masks are an important means of protection for the community, who otherwise may be last in line for vaccines and drugs."—Internet

Early child stress hurts immunity later

MADISON, 28 Jan — Early stressors in children have long-term implications on a child's immunity, US researchers said.

Senior study author Seth Pollak of the University of Wisconsin in Madison said the study revealed impaired immune function in adolescents who, as youngsters, experienced either physical abuse or time in an orphanage.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of

Sciences, evaluated immune-system strength among adolescents who had experienced either typical or unusually stressful childhoods. The researchers looked for high levels of antibodies against the common and usually latent herpes simplex virus type 1.

People with healthy immune systems are able to keep the virus in check and rarely if ever have symptoms — typically, only when stress or illness taxes the immune system.—Internet

Inmate convicted of anthrax threat

MEMPHIS, 28 Jan — A federal prison inmate in Tennessee has been convicted of sending a threat to a federal judge — a letter with white powder that proved to be Sweet 'N' Low.

Marshall DeWayne Williams, 46, faces up to 10 years more in prison for the hoax, The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal reported. Jurors deliberated for only 45 minutes Friday before reaching a guilty verdict. Williams signed his name to a letter to US District Judge J Daniel Breen, claiming the powder was "powerful crystal anthrax." He reportedly told his mother after he sent the letter that it was an effort to draw attention to his bid to be paroled from the federal prison in Memphis.

His mother operates a Web site, FreeMySon.net, arguing that Williams should be paroled because his crime — killing his stepfather with a pipe bomb — was committed before Congress abolished parole in the federal system.—Internet

An elephant keeper feeds milk to Peppy, a Sumatran elephant who was trapped in a well a year ago at the Elephant Conservation Centre in Way Kambas National Park on Indonesia's Sumatra Island on 25 Jan, 2009. Since 1998, 22 elephants were born at Way Kambas Elephant Conservation Centre.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Spurs boss Redknapp cool over striker swoops



Tottenham Hotspur's Michael Dawson (R) celebrates his goal against Stoke City during their Premier League football match at White Hart Lane in London. Tottenham won 3-1.—INTERNET

LONDON, 28 Jan—Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp has played down talk of swoops for Robbie Keane and Fred but admitted he is looking for a top class striker despite seeing his team put Stoke to the sword.

Liverpool forward Keane has been linked with a return to White Hart Lane after only appearing in half of the Reds last 12 games and sensationally being left out of the 18-man squad which faced Everton in the FA Cup on Sunday.

Redknapp earlier said he would like a player of Keane's quality back at the Lane but when asked after Tuesday's 3-1 win whether he thought he could lure the Irishman back he replied "I wouldn't of thought so."

The former West Ham boss was also pessimistic about the capture of Lyon forward Fred after the Brazilian was heavily linked with a move to Spurs. The 25-year old is out of contract at the end of the season and has indicated his desire to leave the French champions.

Internet

Dokic hails 'life-changing' Open comeback

MELBOURNE, 28 Jan—Australia's Jelena Dokic said her amazing Grand Slam comeback at Melbourne Park had changed her life as the nation's media hailed a prodigal daughter's return to the big time.



Australia's Jelena Dokic

The emotionally troubled Dokic entered the tournament as a wildcard ranked 187 in the world and captivated the Australian public with a barnstorming run to the final eight, tipping out three seeded players along the way.

The former world number four and 2000 Wimbledon semi-finalist lost to world number three Dinara Safina on Tuesday but will break back into the top 100 on the back of her Australian Open efforts.—Internet

AC Milan negotiating to keep David Beckham

MILAN, 28 Jan—AC Milan plans to meet with David Beckham's agents to see if the former England captain can get out of his contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy and stay with the Serie A club.

"If Beckham reaches an agreement with the Galaxy, we are prepared to pay a fee," Milan vice president Adriano



AC Milan's David Beckham

Galliani said on Tuesday. "We will meet with his representatives in the next few days."

Beckham is on a two-month loan from the Galaxy and is due to return to Major League Soccer on March 9. The former Manchester United and Real Madrid player scored his first goal for Milan in Sunday's 4-1 victory over Bologna.

"If he decides to free himself and wants to (stay), we will welcome him with open arms, but he belongs to another club and we've got to thank them because they were very kind with us," Galliani said, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport Web site.—Internet

Robinho arrested in sex assault probe

LONDON, 28 Jan—Manchester City and Brazil striker Robinho has been arrested over allegations of a serious sexual assault in a British nightclub, according to police and his spokesman.

The spokesman for 25-year-old Robinho, Britain's most expensive player, said he "strenuously denied" the allegations. "We can confirm that Robinho met the police today, as pre-arranged and as part of a criminal investigation," spokesman Chris Nathaniel said in a statement on Robinho's official website.

"He strenuously denies any allegation of wrongdoing or criminality and is happy to cooperate with



Manchester City striker Robinho

the police if further required."

West Yorkshire police in northern England confirmed a man was arrested on Tuesday and was questioned in connection with a serious sexual assault in a Leeds nightclub on January 14. A spokesman said the man had been released on bail pending further inquiries.—Internet



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo (L) vies with West Bromwich Albion's Belgium defender Carl Hoefkens during the English Premier league football match at The Hawthorns, West Bromwich. Manchester won 5-0.—INTERNET

Fergie loving it as Manchester United rediscover ruthless edge

BIRMINGHAM, 28 Jan—Sir Alex Ferguson has warned his Premier League rivals that Manchester United have rediscovered their ruthless streak after Tuesday's 5-0 hammering of West Brom took the champions three points clear of closest rivals Liverpool.

Goals from Dimitar Berbatov, Carlos Tevez, Nemanja Vidic and two from Cristiano Ronaldo completed an emphatic rout of bottom club West Brom, whose flickering hopes were snuffed out with the 40th minute dismissal of captain Paul Robinson for a late challenge on South Korean midfielder Park Ji-Sung.

But with United now clear of the pack and with goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar breaking his Chelsea counterpart Petr Cech's shut-out record by taking his run without conceding a goal to 1,032 minutes, Ferguson insisted that his team are now back to their destructive best. He said: "We have shown a real ruthless streak tonight which has maybe not been there this season."

"Even Cristiano scored in the league again and I actually said to him, 'Oh, you're scoring again. That's very good of you!' But he is delighted to have got himself back on the scoresheet."—Internet

Serena to play Dementieva in Australian Open semis

MELBOURNE, 28 Jan—Serena Williams was having what she called an "out-of-body experience" on Wednesday in brutal heat at the Australian Open.

Closing the Rod Laver Arena roof and cranking up the air conditioning



Serena Williams celebrates after beating Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova during their Women's singles quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 28 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

helped the defending champion pull herself together and advance to the semifinals — but left her opponent steaming. "I felt I was watching someone play in a blue dress, and it wasn't me, because it was so hot out there," said the second-ranked American, who beat Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 5-7, 7-5, 6-1. "And I kept trying to tell myself that it's not hot. But it got hotter."

Williams, seeking her fourth Australian title and 10th Grand Slam championship overall, next faces Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva, who had to play her entire match with the roof open. The fourth-seeded Dementieva ousted Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-2 to run her winning streak to 15 matches after she won two tuneup tournaments.

Internet

Roddick ousts defending champ; next up, Federer

MELBOURNE, 28 Jan—Andy Roddick is on the oddest of rolls at the Australian Open, and that's just fine with him.

When an odd-numbered year comes around, Roddick finds himself in the semifinals of the year's first major. This time he got there courtesy of defending champion Novak Djokovic, who retired on Tuesday while trailing 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2, 2-1. A sore, cramping and fatigued Djokovic was undone in the quarterfinal by 95-degree heat.

Roddick previously made it to the Australian semis in 2003, 2005 and 2007. He would now like to take this sequence a step further and make it to the final. One problem: Roger Federer.

Federer routed Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 in his quarterfinal and is now only two wins shy of tying Pete Sampras' record of 14 major titles.—Internet



Andy Roddick of the United States signs autographs for fans after Serbia's Novak Djokovic retired from the Men's singles match against at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, on 27 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



Giant panda Mei Xiang plays in the snow at Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington on 27 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

S Korea's durable goods imports drop 26.1% in December

SEOUL, 28 Jan—South Korea's imports of durable consumer goods reached 955 million US dollars in December, down 26.1 per cent from a year ago, the *Korea Herald* reported on Wednesday.

The decline was mainly due to drop of imports in expensive items such as automobiles, home appliances, gold and golf equipment, the Korea Customs Service (KCS) said at a report. Among the four items, the value of automobile imports dropped the most.

The KCS said the value of automobiles imported last month amounted to 126 million US dollars, while the number of the same period in 2007 was recorded at 262 million US dollars.

The value of imported gold in December decreased 47.9 per cent from a year ago to 54 million US dollars while the value of golf equipment imported decreased by 22.5 per cent, the data showed, the KSC said. Import of home appliances in December last year dropped 15.2 per cent to 209 million US dollars from the same period in 2007, the KSC said. The *Korea Herald* attributed the fall to the economic downturn which has caused consumers to put off buying high price items such as automobiles and home appliances.

MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (29.1.2009) (Thursday)

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

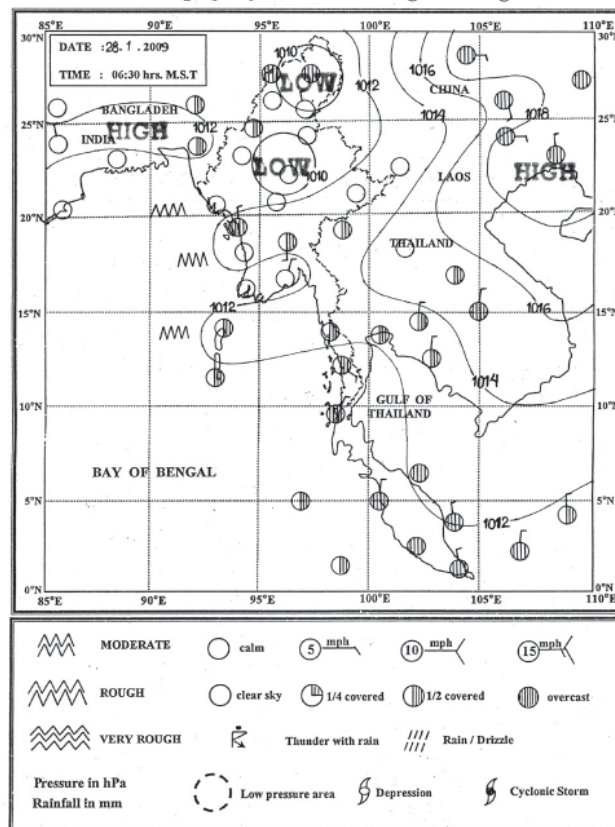
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * The Elephant Camp...Where I've been to
- * The Historical Sites of Taung Tha Man
- * Shopping with Torchlight
- * Feel Pretty...in a Rawan Outfit
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-V)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Abroad Transmissions

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Myanmar's Hardy Raftsmen At Work
- * Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- * Making of Traditional Lacquerware
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part -IV)
- * Beach Souvenir Sea Shell Decorations
- * The Heritage of Kyin (or) Wrestling
- * Myanmar Marionette "A Laudable Myanma Marionette (Part-I)"
- * Extravagant Evidences of Myanmar Culture (Part -II)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * The Elephant Camp... Where I've been to
- * The Historical Sites of Taung Tha Man
- * Shopping with Torchlight
- * Feel Pretty...in a Rawan Outfit
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-V)
- * Myanma Marionette "A Laudable Myanma Marionette (Part-2)"
- * Pleasant Taunggyi (Part-I)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 28 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, isolated light rain or thundershower has been in the Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (7°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (1°C), Namhsam (2°C) and Pinlaung (4°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-1-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 28-1-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-1-2009 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 27-1-2009 was (7.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 28-1-2009 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 Southeast at (18:30) hours MST on 27-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29th January 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-1-2009: Generally fair weather.



Thursday, 29 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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am

5. Dance variety

8:00 am

6. “ငှက်တစ်သောင်း” (ကင်းကောင်၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ ထူးမွန်၊ အကယ်ဒမီစိုးရွှေ၊ ဦးမြင့်စိုး၊ တိမ်ညွန့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်သီ)

8:15 am

7. Musical programme

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. အသွင်သဏ္ဍန်တောက်သည့် သင်္ဃာတော်ပေါက်တံတား

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Cute Little dancers

4:20 pm

3. ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန နိုင်ငံတော်ဆိုင်းဘိုးကြီး ဖျော်ဖြေတင်ဆက်မှုအစီအစဉ်

4:30 pm

4. Song of national races

4:40 pm

5. “မီးမီးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်” (နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ စာမောင်ထက်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်])

4:50 pm

6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:10 pm

7. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (သင်္ချာဘာသာရပ်)(အပိုင်း-က)

5:25 pm

8. Songs to uphold national spirit

5:30 pm

9. Musical programme

5:45 pm

10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. ထူးဆန်းထွေလွှားကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့် ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း

6:55 pm

14. ပျော်ရွှင်စေသောနေ့ရက်များ “ဦးစိုက်နောက်ပြန်”(အပိုင်း-၁) (စိုးရန်အောင်၊ ဇော်ဇော်အောင်၊ နန်းဆုရတီစိုး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်သူရ)

7:15 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကုန်သွယ်မှုနိမ့်နိမ့်” (အပိုင်း-၄၇)

8:00 pm

16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၆၇)

Younger generations of Kachin State have a promising future

Article: *Kyaw Kyaw (Bhamo)*; Photos: *Htay Aung (Kyemon)*

The projects for rapid development of border areas and national races, which are behind other regions in development, are very rewarding.

So far, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has established 28 training schools for development of the youth of border areas across the nation in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State on

development of human resources in border areas for sustainable development and higher living standard of local people in border areas.

When asked about No (1) Training School for Development of the Youth of Border Areas in Myitkyina, Kachin State, Supervisor for Development of Kachin State U Zaw Win Aung told the Kyemon that the Project for Development of Border Areas launched

in 1989 expedited regional development tasks; that human resource development of a region was essential for sustainable development of the region, so Chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on development of human resources in border areas; that respecting and
(See page 7)



Nationality Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon).

Butterflies across Europe face crisis as climate change looms



The scarce copper (Lycaena virgaureae) is one of the butterflies, researchers analyzed.

LIEPZIG, 28 Jan — Climate change will cause Europe to lose much of its biodiversity as projected by a comprehensive study on future butterfly distribution. The Climatic Risk Atlas of European Butterflies predicts northward shifts in potential distribution area of many European butterfly species.

As early warning indicators of environmental change, butterflies are a valuable tool to assess overall climate change impact and to provide some indication on the chances to come nearer to the target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 set by the EU Heads of State in 2001.

The Climatic Risk Atlas of European Butterflies is based on the work of scores of scientists from across Europe. They applied climate change models to data collected by tens of thousands of volunteers. The authors say that some climate change is now inevitable and that the extent of the losses will depend on the degree of that change and how we respond to the new threat. Butterflies have already suffered huge losses across Europe following decades of habitat loss and changing farming and forestry practices.

Internet

Daily school recess improves classroom behavior

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, 28 Jan — School children who receive more recess behave better and are likely to learn more, according to a large study of third-graders conducted by researchers at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University.

The study, published in *Pediatrics*, suggests that a daily break of 15 minutes or more in the school day may play a role in improving learning, social development, and health in elementary school children. The study's principal investigator is Romina M. Barros, M.D., assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Einstein.—*Internet*



A daily break of 15 minutes or more in the school day may play a role in improving learning, social development, and health in elementary school children.

INSIDE

The government had to build Yangon-Sittway Road with much difficulty for ensuring better transport between Rakhine State and other regions. It also built Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road for linking the south and the north of Rakhine State and also linking Rakhine State with Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

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PERSPECTIVES

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Industry-1 Ministry to stage market festivals

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—The Ministry of Industry-1 today announced that it will hold special market festivals in Pale, Sagaing Division, from 27 January to 2 February; in Mohnyin, Kachin State, from 28 January to 3 February; in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division, from 30 January to 5 February; and in Pwintbyu, Magway Division, from 30 January to 5 February.—*MNA*