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Sunday, 22 January, 2012

More men, machines to employ in Mdy for earlier completion of GSM project

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun this afternoon inspected trunk call stations at Mandalay Region Manager's Office of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications where the chief engineer reported him on configuration of microwave networks linking Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and other towns and installation of fibre transmission networks.

The Union minister called for preventing cut in fibre transmission networks, establishing reserve networks as those are chief in GSM extension project and extending workforce and machines.

He inspected finished GSM radio station tower, installation of machines and auto exchange station for GSM extension project in Auto Exchange Office of Patheingyi. Deputy General Manager of the Region U Kyaw Swar Thwin and officials submitted reports on progress of the project and future work plan.

The project needs 55 GSM base transceiver stations, with some already established. Remaining stations will start

trial operation in February, the Region manager reported to the Union minister who promised to provide more workforce and machines for completing the project ahead of schedule in order to enable the people to use mobile phonest at low cost earlier than expected.

MNA



Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun inspects control room of trunk call station at Mandalay Region Manager's Office of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.—MNA

MWAF donates cash, stationery to youth training schools

YANGON, 21 Jan—Protection and Rehabilitation of Women Working Group of Myanma Women's Affairs Federation donated cash and stationery to students of Girls' Training School, Kyaikwaing Youth Training School and Kyimyindine School for the Blind at the girls' school under Social Welfare Department here on 18 January.

The leader and members of the group donated watches, stationery, cash and food for 19 students through respective principals.—MNA

Preventive measures against bird flu inspected

YAMETHIN, 21 Jan—Officials of District and Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department made a field trip to the poultry farms in Shwedah Village-tract of Yamethin Township on 1 January.

They inspected preventive measures against avian influenza and bio-security of the poultry farms.

Myanma Alin

Farmers of Toungoo nurtures Palethwe paddy strain

TOUNGGOO, 21 Jan—Palethwe hybrid paddy strain is being nurtured in Tounggoo.

Bago Region Manager U Aye Ko Ko and officials of Myanma Agriculture Service met local farmers who grow Palethwe paddy strain on 17 January.

Officials urged local farmers to grow Palethwe paddy through good agriculture pattern to be able to produce more than 200 baskets of paddy per acre.—MAS

Maubin-Twantay tarred road opens



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Global radio experts float new mobile phone standard

Significant night temperature (21-1-2012)

Pinlaung	(-1° C)
Namsang	(1° C)
Heho	(1° C)

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 January, 2012

Let's value small changes

Small changes are widely used in trading by the grassroots although its value is nothing to speak of. This being the case, it contributes a lot to needy people. However, the number of small changes has been on decrease with the passage of time.

Where is small change? The small changes are officially issued by the State. It would be wrong if it is assumed that the small changes are useless evaluating its value. To put the small changes on the right track, the State issued billions of small changes. Where are the new small changes?

In Myanmar, the value of goods is often set without considering last two digits. Traders used to ignore the digits behind the decimal point. They believe that such digits will fall short of the value. Although they should calculate the prices of goods with all digits of money including the small changes behind the decimal point, they cut the values at hundred kyats.

In consequence, the price of goods becomes high. In the past, values of goods were calculated in digits of pyas. Thus, the pyas were valuable. At present, circulation of currency in international arena uses coins that are valuable and controls the rising of prices.

In today sales, it is regrettable that some items are paid back in place of the changes between buyers and sellers. Such act is unprofessional at a time when better socio-economic system is being introduced. And it also harms the prestige of humans.

Sesame oil is possible with a large number of sesme seeds. Likewise, the aggregate of small changes could turn itself into a large amount of money.

Although a small change is of little value, it can add the value of currency. With this vision in mind, all are to value a change in taking remedial measures for poverty alleviation in the interest of the people rather than own interest.

Kayin State Chief Minister addresses work coordination meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 21, Jan—Kayin State government held a state level coordination meeting at its office on 6 January. Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min delivered an opening speech and district deputy commissioners and township and sub-township administrators reported on regional data and measures being taken for regional development.

State level departmental officials and state ministers took part in the round of discussion.

The state chief minister on 7 January attended a meeting on road and bridge construction in the state and an

agricultural and livestock breeding development meeting.

Then, the chief minister and party inspected ploughing and cultivation of hybrid paddy on 25-acre land through irrigation water from Yebok dam near Htilon Village in Hlinebwe Township and cultivation of 50 acres of Hsinthukha paddy and 50 acres of Yadanatooe paddy.

Later, the chief minister attended coordination meeting No (1/2012) of regional work committee (Kayin State) for progress of border areas and national races.

MNA

Dy Health Minister visits hospitals in Thongwa, Kayan

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint yesterday morning inspected outpatient ward, medical wards,

X-ray room and laboratory of Thongwa Township People's Hospital (50-bed) in Yangon Region.

At Kayan Township

Hospital (50-bed), he looked into progress of new patient ward, medical wards, X-ray room and laboratory.

While at Thongwa and

Kayan hospitals, the Deputy Minister met personnel and gave instructions on reduction of mother and infant mortality rates and control of infectious diseases.

MNA

Winners awarded in 3rd Japan Cup Karate-do C'ship

YANGON, 21 Jan—The awarding of the 3rd Japan Cup Karate-do Championship 2012 was held at Aung San Gymnasium, here, yesterday afternoon.

Officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department, the vice-president of Myanmar Karate-do and executives presented prizes to the winners in the junior women's 111-5/Tekki Shodan, junior men's 111-5/Tekki Shodan, women's under 50-kilo, 55-kilo, 68-kilo and above 68-kilo Kumite events, 60-kilo, 67-kilo and 75-kilo Kumite events, men's under 84-kilo and above 84-kilo Kumite events.

Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Ohnma Lwin, Daw Khin Mar Nwe and General Secretary Daw L Khun Yi presented prizes to the winners in the women's



Japanese Ambassador Mr Takashi Saito presents championship trophy to Kayah State women's team in 3rd Japan Cup Karate-do Championship.

MNA

singles Kata events, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine National Race U Zaw Aye Maung, winners in the men's Kumite event, Dr Ye Naing Win and special prizes to the winners in women's and men's junior events.

President of Myanmar

Karate-do Federation Dr Win Zaw and executive of JCCY Mr Shigeo Hana gave Sanyo flat 21-inch TV to three gold and one bronze medalist men's best player Kyaw Kyaw Tun (Forestry) and three gold medalist women's best player Swe Swe Aung.

Japanese Ambassador Mr Takashi Saito awarded championship trophy to four gold, three silver and one bronze medal winning Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry team.

MNA

District News

New building, school furniture handed over

LABUTTA, 15 Jan—A ceremony to hand over new building and school furniture to Basic Education Primary School was held in Ward 7 of Labutta on 4 January.

The Chairman of Okinawa (Japan) Social Welfare Association handed over the new building and furniture to Headmaster U San Lwin.

The 75 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high RC building was constructed at a cost of K 49.2 million.

District IPRD



Teak, hardwood saplings in nursery



INGAPU, 15 Jan—Ingapu Township of Ayeyawady Region plans to grow teak and hardwood saplings in the coming rainy season.

On 27 December 2011, local authorities at region level and officials of Forest Department inspected the nursery of teak and eucalyptus to be distributed to the local people and villages for growing three teak plants and 20 eucalyptus plants to each households and one acre each of plants to villages.—Township IPRD

Bridge to be constructed to link villages in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Stake-driving ceremony to construct a bridge linking Uyin and Sapyittaung villages in Meiktila was held at the bridge construction site on 15 January.

Daye gets new rural gravel road

DEDAYE, 18 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012, the Kondangale-Thegon-Danyingon rural gravel road, built by Daye Township Development Affairs Committee for 2011-2012 fiscal year, was put into service on 2 January.

Local authorities and Region Hluttaw representative U Myint Oo formally opened the new road.—Township IPRD



Mandalay Region Transport Minister U Kyaw Hsan and officials drove the stakes.

The bridge is a bailey type and 13 feet in width, 40 feet in length and 17 in height. It costs K 12.5 million, and is expected to complete by March.—MNA

NATO general hopes Pakistan reopen supply route soon

BRUSSELS, 21 Jan—NATO's top military advisor declined on Thursday to confirm reports that Pakistan would reopen the supply route to NATO forces in Afghanistan, but hoped a proper solution could be found soon.

General Knud Bartels, the new chairman of NATO's Military Committee, acknowledged that the alliance "definitely" need access to the supply route through Pakistan, which has been halted after a NATO cross-border air attack killed 24 Pakistani soldiers in November

last year.

"We are not in a desperate situation, logistically speaking for a time being. But it is an issue which has to be addressed in a reasonable time frame," he told reporters at NATO headquarters.

The Danish general said he just noticed reports that Pakistan would reopen the supply route for NATO, but he can't confirm it so far. We have to find a proper solution, which will be acceptable to both parties," he said.

Xinhua



An Iranian toy seller, displays American Barbie dolls in his shop in Teheran, on 5 March, 2002. Iran on Tuesday introduced its answer to Barbie and Ken, boy and girl twin dolls who promote traditional values with their mode.

INTERNET

Iran shuts down shops selling Barbie dolls

TEHERAN, 21 Jan—Police have closed down dozens of toy shops for selling Barbie dolls in Iran, part of a decades-long crackdown against "manifestations of Western culture," the semiofficial Mehr news agency reported on Friday. Barbie dolls are sold wearing swimsuits and miniskirts in a society where women must wear headscarves in public, and men and women are not allowed to swim together.

A ban on the sale of the Barbies, designed to look like young Western women, was imposed in the mid-1990s. In its latest report, Mehr quoted an unidentified police official as saying authorities confiscated the dolls from Tehran stores in a "new phase" of the campaign. In 1996, a

government-backed children's agency called Barbie a "Trojan horse," sneaking in Western influences such as makeup and revealing clothes.

Authorities started confiscating the dolls from stores in 2002, denouncing what they called the toys' un-Islamic characteristics. The campaign was eventually dropped. Iran that year also introduced its own dolls—twins Dara and Sara, designed to promote traditional values with modest clothing and pro-family values—but those proved unable to stem the Barbie tide. Despite bans on many Western books, movies, satellite TV channels, music, haircuts and fashion, young people maintain their interest in that culture.

Internet

NZ police raid file-sharing site founder's mansion

WELLINGTON, 21 Jan—New Zealand police raided several homes and businesses linked to the founder of Megaupload.com, a giant Internet file-sharing site shut down by US authorities, on Friday and seized guns, millions of dollars, and nearly \$5 million in luxury cars, officials said. Police arrested founder Kim Dotcom and three Megaupload employees on US accusations that they facilitated millions of illegal downloads of films, music and other content costing copyright holders at least \$500 million in lost revenue.

Extradition proceedings against them could last a year or more. With 150 million registered users, about 50 million hits daily and endorsements from music superstars, Megaupload.com was among the world's biggest file-sharing sites. According to a US indictment, the site, which was shut down Thursday, earned Dotcom \$42 million in 2010 alone.

Although the company is based in Hong Kong and Dotcom lives in New Zealand, some of the alleged pirated content was hosted on leased servers in Virginia, and that

Senior al-Qaeda figure killed in drone strike

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—A militant who acted as a senior operations organizer for al-Qaeda was targeted and killed in one of two US drone strikes launched against targets inside Pakistan last week, a US official said.

US and Pakistani sources told Reuters that the target of the attack was Aslam Awan, a Pakistani national from Abbottabad, the same town where Osama bin Laden was killed last May by a US commando team. They said he was targeted in a strike by a US-operated drone on 10 January directed at what news reports said was a compound near the town of Miranshah in the border province of North Waziristan.

That strike broke an undeclared eight-week hiatus in attacks by the armed, unmanned drones that patrol Pakistan's tribal areas and are a key weapon in US President Barack Obama's counter-terrorism strategy.

The sources described Awan, who also was known by the nom-de-guerre Abdullah Khorasani, as a significant figure in the remaining core leadership of al-Qaeda, which US officials say has been sharply reduced by the drone campaign. Most of the drone attacks are conducted as part of a clandestine CIA operation. Pakistani officials could not confirm that Awan was killed in the drone attack, but the US official said he was.—Reuters



Megaupload.com employees Bram van der Kolk, also known as Bramos, left, Finn Butato, second from left, Mathias Ortman and founder, former CEO and current chief innovation officer of Megaupload.com Kim Dotcom (also known as Kim Schmitz and Kim Tim Jim Vestor), right, appear in North Shore District Court in Auckland, New Zealand.

INTERNET

was enough for US prosecutors to act. New Zealand police served 10 search warrants at several businesses and homes around the city of Auckland.

Internet



French President Nicolas Sarkozy: "The French army is not in Afghanistan to be shot at by Afghan soldiers" INTERNET

Four French soldiers die in Afghanistan shooting

KABUL, 21 Jan—Four French soldiers have been killed in northern Afghanistan after a serviceman from the Afghan National Army opened fire, officials say. Another 16 French soldiers were injured, some seriously, in the incident in Kapisa Province. An official told the BBC that an Afghan non-commissioned officer got into a "verbal clash" and opened fire. President Nicolas Sarkozy said France was suspending its training programmes in Afghanistan

following the attack. Mr Sarkozy said that the question of an early French withdrawal from Afghanistan would arise if security conditions were not re-established. He said it was unacceptable for French troops to be fired on by their allies. Mr Longuet said that the French soldiers shot dead were unarmed and were "literally murdered". A Taliban spokesman said it was not clear if the attacker was a member of their group but described him as a "conscientious Afghan

soldier". Thursday's incident, in the Tagab district, took place at 08:00 local time (03:30 GMT), according to French media reports.

A French security official quoted by AFP said the soldiers were attacked as they ended a sports session at their base. It brings to 82 the total number of French personnel killed in Afghanistan since 2001. He was sending his defence minister, Gerard Longuet, to the country immediately, he said.—Internet



Undated handout image courtesy of the US Air Force shows a MQ-1 Predator unmanned aircraft.

INTERNET

Six killed in Afghanistan were Hawaii-based Marines

HONOLULU, 21 Jan—All six Marines killed in the crash of a US helicopter in Hawaii, a Hawaii congresswoman said on Friday. The CH-53D helicopter crashed on Thursday in Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand.

US Rep Colleen Hanabusa, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said Friday she's saddened to hear of the deaths. Her spokeswoman, Ashley

Nagaoka Boylan, said the congresswoman was notified Thursday evening that all six Marines were Hawaii-based.

"All who have called Hawaii home are part of our island ohana, and every loss like this touches us deeply," Hanabusa said in a statement, using the Hawaiian word for family. The military hasn't identified those killed. But John Riddick, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, said his son was among them.

Internet

Mexico catches alleged Sinaloa cartel gun runner

MEXICO CITY, 21 Jan—Mexican police say they have captured one of the main smugglers of illegal weapons for the Sinaloa drug cartel. Federal police say Eduardo Avila Ojeda smuggled guns, ammunition and explosives into Mexico to be used by the cartel.

Police said Thursday that the 34-year-old suspect was captured Wednesday in the northern city of Culiacan. Culiacan is the capital of Sinaloa state, home to the cartel of the same name. Mexican officials have long blamed weapons smuggled in from the United States for fueling drug violence that has claimed more than 47,500 victims in five years.—Internet

Eat healthy to live well

Foods aren't good or bad—A healthy eating style is like a puzzle with many parts. Each part — or food — is different. Some foods may have more fat, sugar or salt while others may have more vitamins or fiber. There is a place for all these foods. What makes a diet good or bad is how foods fit together. Balancing your choices is important. Fit in a higher-fat food, like pepperoni pizza, at dinner by choosing lower-fat foods at other meals. And don't forget about moderation. If two pieces of pizza fill you up, you don't need a third.

Eat well.—Combined with physical activity, eating nutritious foods in the right amounts can help keep you healthy. Many illnesses, such as heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and osteoporosis, can be prevented or controlled with dietary changes and exercise. Calcium and vitamin D supplements can help women prevent osteoporosis.

Start your day with breakfast.—Breakfast fills your "empty tank" to get you going after a long night without food. And it can help you do better in school. Easy to prepare breakfasts include cold cereal with fruit and low-fat milk, whole-wheat toast with peanut butter, yogurt with fruit, whole-grain waffles or even last night's pizza!

Snack smart.—Snacks are a great way to refuel. Choose snacks from different food groups - a glass of low-fat milk and a few graham crackers, an apple or celery sticks with peanut butter and raisins, or some dry cereal. If you eat smart at other meals, cookies, chips and candy are OK for occasional snacking.

Balance your food choices—don't eat too much of any one thing. —You don't have to give up foods like hamburgers, french fries and ice cream to eat healthy. You just have to be smart about how often and how much of them



Bananas, strawberries and melons are some great tasting fruits. Try vegetables raw, on a sandwich or salad.—INTERNET

you eat. Your body needs nutrients like protein, carbohydrates, fat and many different vitamins and minerals such as vitamins C and A, iron and calcium from a variety of foods. Balancing food choices from the Food Guide Pyramid and checking out the Nutrition Facts Panel on food labels will help you get all these nutrients.

Eat more grains, fruits and vegetables.—These foods give you carbohydrates for energy, plus vitamins, minerals and fiber. Besides, they taste good! Try breads such as whole-wheat, bagels and pita. Spaghetti and oatmeal are also in the grain group.

Bananas, strawberries and melons are some great tasting fruits. Try vegetables raw, on a sandwich or salad.

Internet

Health Tip: Store insulin properly

Insulin is a lifesaver for many people with diabetes, but it must be stored correctly.

The American Diabetes Association offers these guidelines for proper storage of insulin:

- * Insulin typically is stored in the refrigerator, but it may be more painful when injected this way. Insulin stored at room temperature will last about a month.
- * Don't keep your insulin in extremely hot or extremely cold temperatures.
- * Never keep insulin in the car, in direct sunlight or in the freezer.
- * Check the bottle's expiration date, and discard any insulin that's expired.
- * Inspect the bottle before inserting the syringe to make sure the insulin looks as it should.
- * Don't use insulin that has formed any crystals or clumps.—Internet



The smoking cessation drug Champix will feature updated labelling with new information related to cardiovascular safety, Health Canada announced on Thursday.—INTERNET

Updated label for smoking cessation drug Champix

OTTAWA, 21 Jan—The smoking cessation drug Champix will feature updated labelling with new information related to cardiovascular safety, Health Canada announced on Thursday.

The health agency has completed a review of the Pfizer drug after evaluating data from a quit-smoking clinical trial involving 700 smokers with cardiovascular disease. Approximately half of the participants in the trial received Champix, while 350 received a placebo. While a "slightly increased number" of Champix users in the trial experienced "serious heart-related events," Health Canada says the study wasn't adequately designed to test the cardiovascular safety of drug.

"The small study size combined with other study design weaknesses make it impossible to draw conclusions based on these data," Health Canada said in a release.—Internet



Home sales hit 11-month high

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—Home sales hit an 11-month high in December and the number of properties on the market was the fewest in nearly seven years, pointing to a nascent recovery in the housing sector. The National Association of Realtors said on Friday existing home sales increased 5 percent to an annual rate of 4.61 million units, with all four of the nation's regions recording gains.

Sales of both multifamily and single-family homes rose. "It seems that the housing sector may be slowly picking itself up off of the mat," said Omar Sharif, an economist at RBS

in Stamford, Connecticut.

The fairly upbeat data and reports that debt-stricken Greece was close to a deal with its private-sector creditors pushed US Treasury debt prices lower. Stocks on Wall Street were mixed, while the dollar was little changed against a basket of currencies.

While the home sales pace was a touch below economists' expectations, December marked the third straight month of gains, adding to hopes that a tentative recovery was taking shape. But a glut of unsold properties that is weighing down on prices and stringent lending practices by banks is likely to make progress painfully slow.—Reuters



A view of a house for sale is seen in Los Angeles in this 24 Feb, 2010 file photo.—INTERNET



In this 18 Jan, 2012 photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.—INTERNET

Microsoft and IBM push Dow up, Google falls

NEW YORK, 21 Jan—IBM and Microsoft drove the Dow Jones industrial average higher on Friday after the tech giants reported stronger earnings than analysts expected.

Microsoft said sales of Xbox games and Office software helped push revenue up in the last quarter of 2011. IBM credited better sales of software and services and raised its earnings outlook for the year. Microsoft rose 6 percent and IBM rose 4 percent.

The Dow rose 96.50 points to close at 12,720.48. That's a gain of 0.8 percent. Without the huge gains in IBM and Microsoft, the Dow would have risen just 24 points.

The S&P 500 index inched up 0.88 to 1,315.38. Both the Dow and S&P ended the week with gains of more than 2 percent.

Plenty of things are going right, said Frank Fantozi, CEO of Planned Financial Services, an independent wealth manager in Cleveland. Applications for unemployment benefits dropped last week to the lowest level in nearly four years. Housing sales are steadily rising. And most companies are reporting better profits.—Internet



Probe of Chevy Volt fires closed

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—The government on Friday closed its investigation of Chevy Volt battery fires, concluding that there is no defect trend and that electric cars do not pose a greater risk of fire than gasoline-powered vehicles. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also said that it was satisfied with a plan by General Motors to address problems that triggered fires in Volts after crash tests.

"Generally all vehicles have some risk of fire in the event of a serious crash," NHTSA said in closing the two-month investigation.

No real-world fires were reported by regulators or the automaker, but the investigation has cast a shadow over GM's heavily promoted bid to lead on fuel efficiency and green technology with the Volt.

NHTSA opened its investigation after separate fires last year. A battery pack in a Volt crash tested in May caught fire three weeks later at a NHTSA facility in Wisconsin. In lab tests completed in late November, a second Volt pack began to smoke and throw off sparks, while a third battery pack caught fire a week after a simulated crash.—Reuters



Two potential customers walk past a Chevrolet Volt electric vehicle and a gas-powered Chevrolet Cruze on display at the Suburban Chevrolet dealership in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on 22 Oct, 2011.—INTERNET

Scientists find new plant in Fiji

LONDON, 21 Jan—Scientists have discovered a new flowering plant belonging to the scarce *Medinilla* group on Fiji's Kadavu island, the International Union for Conservation of Nature said on Friday.

"Although the plant was first found in August of 2010, it has taken this long to go through the process and verify it," IUCN spokeswoman Ewa Ewa Magiera told AFP.

The plant was found during a biodiversity assessment of the Nakasaleka district carried out as part of IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative (WANI), Magiera said.

There are some 193 known species of *Medinilla* in Madagascar, Africa, South Asia and the Pacific Islands, according to the conservation body.

Even can only be found in Fiji, among them the Tagimoucia flower, the country's floral emblem.

Internet



A picture released on 19 January by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in Gland shows a new flowering plant belonging to the *Medinilla* plant group discovered in the highlands of Matasawalevu village, on the island of Kadavu in Fiji. The plant was found during a biodiversity assessment of the Nakasaleka district carried out as part of IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative.—INTERNET

Tulsi can detoxify fluoridated water

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan—It could come as a great relief to millions of people living in fluoride-hit areas. A team of Indian researchers has found that the leaves and stem of the tulsi plant can detoxify water with high fluoride content, and make it safe for human consumption. The quality of the treated water will be on par with the norms prescribed for fluoride content by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Tulsi or *ocimum sanctum* has natural bio-adsorbent properties, that is, the leaves and stem of this Indian herb serve as a natural magnet to adsorb (attach) fluoride molecules in the water. All one has to do is dip the leaves or stem of the tulsi in a glass of water for 20 minutes, remove the plant pieces and drink the water.

A team from the department of environmental sciences, Sardar Patel Mahavidyalaya, Chandrapur, have successfully demonstrated defluoridation of water using tulsi. They

used fresh and dried tulsi leaves, stem pieces and extract from the fresh leaves.

"With initial fluoride concentration of 5 ppm, it was observed that maximum 94 per cent of fluoride can be removed at a dose of 75 mg of fresh basil leaves for a sample of 100 ml for a contact period of 20 minutes," Mr Kamble said. Fresh basil stems with a dose of 100 mg/100 ml had a removal efficiency of 75 per cent, whereas for dry leaves and dry stems at a dose of 250 mg/100 ml, the removal efficiency was 78 per cent and 74 per cent respectively.

"This makes the fluoride concentration within the



permissible limit of Indian standard for drinking water (IS 10500:1991, Fluoride 1.0-1.5 ppm).

The absorption of fluoride ion was affected by pH, quantity and size of tulsi

A team of Indian researchers has found that the leaves and stem of the tulsi plant can detoxify water with high fluoride content, and make it safe for human consumption. The quality of the treated water will be on par with the norms prescribed for fluoride content by the Bureau of Indian Standards.—INTERNET

parts used. This technique is cost effective, environment friendly and easy to understand and can be adopted in rural as well as urban areas throughout the year," he added.

Amateur stargazers discover new planet

LONDON, 21 Jan—In what's claimed to be the third time in recorded history, two amateur British astronomers say they have discovered a new planet which they want to be named after them.

Chris Holmes and Lee Threapleton spotted the new world while working on a project to find planets beyond our solar system, publicised by Prof Brian Cox in his Stargazing Live series, the 'Daily Mail' reported. If the genuineness of their discovery is confirmed by planetary scientists, then the heavenly

body, thought to be gaseous and around the size of Neptune, will be named 'Threapleton Holmes B', the newspaper said. In fact, the pair made the discovery after spotting changes in light patterns in an image from NASA's Kepler space telescope. The unusual patterns suggested a planet appears to be orbiting a sun called SPH10066540, which lies between 600 and 3,000 light years away.

The image of the new planet has been posted online at 'Planethunters.org', an

Oxford University project that asks the public to sift through time-lapsed data from NASA in the hope of new discoveries. Holmes of Peterborough said: "I've never even had a telescope. I've had a passing interest in where things are in the sky, but never had any more knowledge about it than that. Being the one to find something is a very exciting position." Dr Chris Lintott at Oxford University said: "The candidate planet is unlikely to have life because it is too hot.—INTERNET



Hacker group anonymous fights for Internet freedom

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—SOPA and PIPA, two bills making their way through the United States legislature, have been the subject of recent controversy. Massive online protests by individuals and companies have led the remaining GOP hopefuls to turn against the bills, according to the *Washington Post*.

The Department of Justice attack on file-sharing site MegaUpload proves adequate tools already exist to fight online piracy, according to tech site VentureBeat. That enforcement action drew an unintended consequence, says OpposingViews.com—a devastating attack on government and entertainment industry computer systems by hacking group Anonymous.

Members of Anonymous, the

"hactivist" group, proved a very important point today. They showed that a small group of motivated and technologically savvy individuals can attack what they perceive as instruments of oppression successfully.

Imagine the time, energy and money spent on securing all the systems they hacked. The trigger event, the DOJ attack on MegaUpload covered by CNN, happened very recently. It took Anonymous only hours to bring down systems with the best protection the government can put in place and the best the entertainment industry could buy. Those entities may want to consider hiring better network security specialists.

Imagine if, during the American Revolutionary War, the British has special units tasked with destroying the printing presses used to produce pro-colonial pamphlets or newspapers with pro-colonial messages. A group defending those presses, the instruments of free speech at the time, would have been criminal by British standards, but heroes to the freedom-seeking colonists.—INTERNET



An icon of a computer, monitor, keyboard and mouse.—INTERNET



Cameraless iPhone 4, iPhone 4S on sale in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Jan—The camera is normally a big selling point, but in Singapore Apple's iPhone 4 and 4S are now available without the function—to cater to military personnel banned from taking image-capturing devices into army camps. Some camera enthusiasts claim the quality of the cameras built into the latest iPhone models has replaced the need to carry a compact. But Singapore mobile operator M1 on Friday unveiled no-camera versions adapted to the requirements of the defence ministry.

Camera phones were banned in the city state's military installations in 2007 after photos of sensitive training activities were posted online. "The phones are targeted at military personnel but anyone can buy them if they want to," an M1 spokesman said.—INTERNET

Global radio experts float new mobile phone standard

GENEVA, 21 Jan—Global radio experts have approved radio standards that are to usher in a new mobile phone operating system to replace third generation or 3G technology, the International Telecommunication Union announced on Friday.

The newly-adopted "IMT Advanced Spectrum" would result in faster and better quality mobile services, said Francois Rancy, director of the ITU's radio-communication bureau. Rancy addressed media on the closing day of the organisation's Radio-communication Assembly in Geneva. "Many of the (current) global standards are (previous) recommendations adopted at the Radiocom-



Global radio experts have approved radio standards that are to usher in a new mobile phone operating system to replace third generation or 3G technology, the International Telecommunication Union has announced.—INTERNET

munication Assembly," noted Rancy, citing one adapted about 10 years ago for what is known as "3G" spectrum.

"Many of the smart phones you have in your pockets now are an important result," of recommendations such as those regarding 3G, Rancy said. "The IMT Advanced spectrum adopted this week provides a step forward in terms of quality and speed for mobile services," he added. The World Meteorological Organization warned however that increased pressure on the use of radio spectrum could hamper its observation work. "Weather forecasts, disaster warnings and climate monitoring are all critically dependent on radio frequency bands which are used around the clock by meteorological services," the WMO said in a statement.—INTERNET



Cameraless iPhone 4, iPhone 4S on sale in Singapore. INTERNET

Chinese premier's visit promotes friendly cooperation with Nepal, Arab countries

BEIJING, 21 Jan— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's just-concluded visit has promoted friendly cooperation with Nepal, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said on Thursday.



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao addresses the opening ceremony of the fifth World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, on 16 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

During his four-nation tour in the past six days, Wen attended more than 40 bilateral and multilateral activities and delivered important speeches at the opening of the Fifth World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi and the Fourth China-Arab Business Conference, Yang said.

Wen's activities have demonstrated China's sincere wish and firm resolve to enhance political trust and strategic cooperation with Arab nations and highlighted China's notion and policy measures to follow a path of green and sustainable development, he said.

And the Chinese premier's active engagement with people from various circles of the countries that he has visited has been warmly and greatly appreciated, Yang said. Despite its tight schedule, the visit has produced fruitful results and is thus a complete success, he said.—Xinhua

A large number of lanterns were lit up along the Confucius Temple and Qinhui River scenic belt to greet the coming Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on 23 January this year.—XINHUA



Children's science questions 'stump many parents'

LONDON, 21 Jan — Parents are failing to keep up with their children's scientific knowledge, a survey suggests. Researchers for the Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair interviewed 2,000 parents of children aged between five and 16.

Two-thirds of parents said they struggled with their children's science queries and a quarter felt frustrated. Professor Brian Cox, a spokesman for the fair,

admitted children's science questions could be tricky.

Almost one in three parents said they were quizzed by their curious offspring on a daily basis. The questions often left parents embarrassed by their own failure to provide answers. Professor Cox said: "With more and more youngsters getting stuck into science and maths both in and out of school, it's no wonder they are constantly questioning the world around them."

Inquisitive minds are fantastic but clever questions can leave parents in a tricky situation if they don't have the answers.

"The best thing parents can do is work with their children to find the answers. Not only can it be fun, but you'll both learn something

new along the way." Children's enjoyment of science and maths was not always shared by their parents, with more than half of those surveyed saying the subjects filled them with dread.

More than a quarter of parents thought their offspring knew more about maths and science than they did.

Some added that their children's enthusiasm was fuelled by television series such as *Frozen Planet* or *Wonders of the Universe*. About a third of parents said they actively researched answers to their children's inquiries.

But 16% told their children to ask their partner and a fifth made up a response or pretended that no one knew the answer.—Internet

Chan nominated WHO Director-General for 2nd term

HONG KONG, 21 Jan — Margaret Chan was nominated by the World Health Organization's Executive Board for a second term as WHO Director-General. Chan was the former Director of Health Department of the Hong Kong government.

Chief Executive of the Hong Kong government Donald Tsang congratulated Chan on her nomination. "The people of Hong Kong

take pride in her senior position in the WHO and her contribution to global health," Tsang said.

"The Hong Kong government will continue to work closely with the WHO and participate in global endeavors to combat diseases and improve global health," Tsang added. The nomination will be submitted for approval to the 66th World Health Assembly, scheduled to meet in Geneva in May.—Xinhua



Global airlines offer delicious dishes for their first class passengers.—XINHUA

TOP VEXING QUESTIONS

- Why is the Moon sometimes out in the day?
- Why is the sky blue?
- Will we ever discover aliens?
- How much does the earth weigh?
- How do aeroplanes stay up?

SOME ANSWERS FROM BIG BANG FAIR

- The Moon is lit by the Sun. So when its orbit brings it to the right place, we can see it.
- Light bounces off molecules in the air and some colours of light travel through air and dust better than others. Blue light gets bounced around the most. So we see a blue colour.
- Nobody knows the answer to this question but as technology advances, who knows what we will discover.
- The earth technically weighs nothing, because it's falling around the sun.
- The upward lift of a plane is created by its curved wings. The way air flows over and under the wing allows a plane to lift. Planes stay up as they have more upward lift than the downward pull of gravity.



Parents are frustrated and embarrassed by being unable to answer youngsters' science questions.

INTERNET

Google named best place to work in US

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Jan— Google on Thursday was named by *Fortune* magazine as the best place to work in the United States.

The Mountain View, the California-based Internet search giant, hired about 7,000 people in the year of 2011, the most intense hiring spree in its 13-year history, which moved it up from fourth to first on *Fortune's* annual list of the 100 best companies to work for.

"Employees rave about their mission, the culture, and the famous perks of the Plex: bocce courts, a bowling alley, eyebrow shaping (for a fee) in the New York office," *Fortune* wrote.

What people often focus on are the flashy, showy

things, like the massages and the food, which are important to us.

But they are not the real story about what makes our culture work," Laszlo Bock, Google's senior vice president for people operations, told *San Jose Mercury News*, a daily newspaper in Silicon Valley.

"We've always been good at making sure we're treating employees flexibly. You treat people with respect.

They tend to return the favor to the company. And that goes for families," Larry Page, Google co-founder and chief executive officer, said in an interview with *Fortune*.

Xinhua

Oil rig arrives in Cuba to begin deep water exploration

HAVANA, 21 Jan — A large oil rig has arrived off the coast of Cuba to begin searching for offshore oil deposits. Several international companies will use the rig to drill exploratory wells in deep water in the Florida Strait, which separates Cuba from the US. Cuba is hoping to confirm estimates that it has billions of barrels of oil in offshore fields.

But there is concern in the US that a deep water spill could devastate the coast of Florida. The Chinese-built rig — known as Scarabeo 9 —

could be seen from the Cuban capital Havana as it moved slowly west.

First to use it will be the Spanish oil company Repsol YPF, which plans to drill an exploratory well around 100km (62 miles) from the Florida Keys. Other foreign companies are also planning to hire the rig.

Cuba already produces some oil from small onshore and coastal deposits, but depends for most of its fuel on subsidised imports from its ally, Venezuela. If confirmed, the estimated offshore deposits could turn

Cuba into an oil exporter and transform its troubled socialist economy. But the project has caused anxiety in the US, particularly following the 2010 leak at

BP's Deepwater Horizon rig, which dumped millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Scarabeo-9 will be drilling in even deeper waters, and sea currents mean that any spill would threaten the Florida coast.

Internet



Cuba hopes the Scarabeo 9 rig will help to expand its oil industry.—INTERNET

Nigeria's Kano rocked by multiple explosions

ABUJA, 21 Jan — Multiple explosions have rocked Kano, the biggest city in northern Nigeria. The BBC's Yusuf Yakasai in the city says there is pandemonium with people running all over the place and plumes of smoke rising into the sky. One of the blasts hit the federal police headquarters in the city and two other police stations, he says.

No-one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Islamist militants have been behind a recent campaign of violence in the mainly Muslim north. Our reporter says there is also a shoot-out going on at the police's state head office in the east of the city. The blasts targeted different neighbourhoods of the city. So far he is aware of explosions at the federal police headquarters in the west of the city, one police station in the centre, and another police station in the south. A reporter for the AP news agency said one of the explosions was powerful enough to shake his car several miles away from the blast.

Internet



ATV Miss Asia 2011 winner Feng Xuebing (C), 1st runner-up Wang Ka Man (R) and 2nd runner-up Hong Yi Joo (L) pose for photos during the awarding ceremony in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, on 19 Jan, 2012. — XINHUA

No prosecutions over Taliban finger removal

LONDON, 21 Jan — Three British soldiers accused of chopping off the fingers of dead Taliban will not be prosecuted. Military police investigated reports the fingers may have been kept as a trophies of war but found they had been taken for forensic testing. The case involved two officers and a soldier thought to be from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots).

Their actions were against policy but the troops' explanation they had been under fire was accepted as mitigation. The Ministry of Defence says training for all servicemen and women deploying on operations will now be reinforced to ensure that they understand that the removal of body parts from enemy killed in action is not permitted. The claims centred on the battalion's tour of duty in Afghanistan between September 2010 and April 2011. They were tasked with training Afghan police.

The investigation found that although fingers were removed from militants who had been killed, the digits were placed in evidence bags and submitted for evidence before being disposed of. The MoD says there was nothing to suggest the fingers were removed for any other reason than forensic testing. Soldiers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, are recruited in Scotland but are based in Canterbury, in Kent. — Internet



The MoD says training will be reinforced for service personnel fighting the Taliban. — INTERNET

Vodafone has boosted sales in the developing world. — INTERNET

Vodafone not liable for up to \$4.4bn of

India penalties

foreign companies facing similar tax investigations in India. The case centred on Vodafone's \$11bn acquisition of the Indian assets of China's Hutchison Telecommunications in 2007.

Vodafone said it did not owe tax on the deal, as the assets were held by a firm based in the Cayman Islands. In May 2007, Vodafone's Dutch subsidiary acquired a 67% stake in CGP Investments Ltd, a Cayman Islands registered company which held the Indian telecom assets of Hutchison.

It was presented with a tax demand of 112 billion rupees, currently worth \$2.2bn. The Indian government subsequently sought penalties of up to 100% of the original bill. "The court has concluded that Vodafone had no liability to account for withholding tax on its acquisition of interests in Hutchison Essar Limited (now Vodafone India Limited) in 2007," the company said in a statement. — Internet



NEW DELHI, 21 Jan — India's highest court has ruled that Vodafone is not liable for taxes and penalties of up to \$4.4bn (£2.8bn). The judgement could relieve pressure on other

Third baby dies after Belfast hospital outbreak

BELFAST, 21 Jan — A third baby has died after an outbreak of a deadly infection in a Belfast hospital, it was confirmed on Friday. The deaths at the city's Royal Maternity Hospital occurred in the last week to 10 days,



An archive picture shows a newborn baby holding onto his mother's finger. A third baby has died after an outbreak of a deadly infection in a hospital in Northern Ireland, it emerged on Friday. — INTERNET

but a possible link to the pseudomonas bacteria was only discovered recently. The first two babies were born prematurely.

The latest death came as staff began an investigation to trace the killer bug at Northern Ireland's largest maternity unit, which will now undergo a deep clean. The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust said the deaths, in the neonatal unit, may be linked to the outbreak of the infection, which can cause severe breathing and other problems.

Admissions to the unit have been restricted to all but the most seriously ill babies who cannot be treated elsewhere, but staff believe the infection has not spread to other areas of the Royal Victoria Hospital site. Dr Richard Wright, associate medical director at the Belfast Trust said: "We are engaged in a fairly major investigation to identify the cause of the infection." — Internet

Denmark launches European Year for Active Ageing

COPENHAGEN, 21 Jan — Denmark officially launched the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between generations at a conference here on Wednesday. The two-day meeting would discuss the social and economic challenges and opportunities facing ageing populations in Europe, focusing on persons over the age of 60 years. Denmark, which currently holds the six-month rotating presidency of the EU, takes the issue "very seriously," as around 17 percent of its population is over the age of 65 years.

"Life does not end at 60, and society acknowledges that senior citizens have much to offer," the Danish EU presidency said in a statement. "This is what active ageing is all about: getting more out of life and staying in

good health. This is important both in the labor market, at home and in society," it added. As Europeans are living more healthily and longer, and as these older citizens possess experience and skills, which have economic value, Europe is keen to benefit from its changing demography.

The European Year on Active Ageing wants to bring attention to the concept of "active ageing," whereby Europe's senior citizens are offered ways to remain healthy, independent and active in the labour market for longer, and play an active role in society for longer. The EU is keen for its member states, businesses, and public and private actors to "improve the access to active ageing for all age groups," the statement said.

Xinhua

Singapore Airlines makes Airbus checks

SINGAPORE, 21 Jan — Singapore Airlines (SIA) has started the process of checking two thirds of its 15-plane Airbus A380 fleet as the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) warned of new cracks on the superjumbo's wings. An spokesman for the state carrier told AFP it was instructed by the EASA to check six of its aircraft within four days, and four of its aircraft within six weeks.

"We are carrying out the checks as instructed... We are already inspecting one of our aircraft as a precautionary measure," an SIA spokesman told AFP. "The safety of our customers and crew is our number one priority and we will ensure that we take whatever action is needed for the continued safe operation of our A380 fleet."

SIA's checks come as the EASA on Friday recommended checks on 30 out of 67 A380s in service around the world after new cracks were discovered in the superjumbo's wings. "Following an unscheduled internal inspection of an A380 wing, some rib feet have been found with cracks originating



Singapore Airlines (SIA) has started the process of checking two thirds of its 15-plane Airbus A380 fleet as the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) warned of new cracks on the superjumbo's wings. — INTERNET

from the rib to skin panel attachment holes," the EASA said in a directive.

Internet

US initial jobless claims dive to lowest level since April 2008

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — The number of Americans initially applying for unemployment aid last week fell dramatically, a sign for a strong recovery in the labor market, the US Labour Department reported on Thursday. The Labour Department said that the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims for jobless benefits was 352,000 in the week ending 14 Jan, a decrease of 50,000 from the previous week's revised figure. It was the biggest drop in more than six years.

The fresh figure came after three months of steady declines that brought applications to their lowest level in nearly four years, signaling that the hiring market is strengthening. As a rule of thumb, fewer than 425,000 people applying for aid is consistent with modest job growth, and 375,000 or below signals a sustained drop in the unemployment rate. Meanwhile, the four-week moving average, which helps to smooth out week-to-week volatility, edged down by 3500 to 379,000, the second-lowest in more than three years.

Xinhua

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister receives Chairman of Texhong Textile Group Limited of Hong Kong

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung received a delegation led by Chairman Hong Tian Zhu of Texhong Textile Group Limited of Hong Kong at his office on 19 January, and discussed matters on investment.

Also present on the occasion together

with the Region Chief Minister were Ayeyawady Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock U Tin Soe, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko and Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Hla Khaing.

MNA



Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung receives Chairman Hong Tian Zhu of Texhong Textile Group Limited of Hong Kong and party.—MNA

Acting Region Chief Minister inspects Myeik-Dawei Union Highway

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko on 18 January inspected upgrading of Union Highway from Myeik to Dawei at mile post No. 136.

At the bailey bridge in Kye Village, Superintending Engineer U Khin Thet of Public Works reported to the Acting Region Chief Minister on damage of the bridge and plan to repair it. After looking into Basic Education Primary School in Magyigon

Village of Palaw Township and Zayatseik-Kyaukme road, the Acting Region Chief Minister visited Palaw Township People's Hospital.

At Kanyoedan Yadana Hall in Palaw, he met departmental personnel and local people.

He inspected repairing of the road and 16-bed hospital in Palauk Sub-Township and comforted the patients. Later, the Acting Region Chief Minister inspected maintenance of the road at mile post No. 44.—MNA

Meiktila Golf Club to hold invitational golf tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Meiktila Golf Club will organize its anniversary invitational golf tournament 2012 at Meiktila Golf Club on 28, 29 January. Categories of the golf tournament are first class (handicap 0-12), second class (handicap 13-18), third class (19-24), women's invitational event, Above-55 event, and team events (of at least one with handicap 12 and below and

of four member-team with up to handicap 18).

The main sponsors of the tournament are Dagon Brewery Ltd, Kaung Myat Co Ltd and Air Bagan Ltd and co-sponsors are NIVEA and KTM drinking water. Golfers from Myingyan, Pakokku, Nyaung U, Popa, Mahlaing, Wundwin, Thazi, Pyawbwe, and Yamethin townships are invited to the tournament.—MNA

One stop service of video licence in Muse, Kyukok

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Joint-Secretary-1 of Shan State Video Industry Supervisory Committee Head of Branch U Hlaing Phyo of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise (Lashio Section) made trips to Muse

Township on 17 and 18 January and Pang sai (Kyukok) Sub-Township on 19 and 20 January. He issued video licences to the entrepreneurs there through one stop service.—MNA

MPF Chief's Shield Track and Field C'ship opened

YANGON, 21 Jan—The opening of the 25th Myanmar Police Force Chief's Shield Track and Field

Championship 2012 was held at Aung San Stadium, here, this morning. Commander of Police

Battalion Control Command Police Brig-Gen Thura Bo Ni, on behalf of the Chief of Myanmar Police Force, made a speech.

After the competitions, Daw Khin Ma Lay, wife of the Commander of Police Battalion Control Command, presented the first prize to MPF Headquarters women's team and Director (A) Police Tun Ohn, Mandalay Region Police Force men's team.

On behalf of the Chief of MPF, Police Brig-Gen Thura Bo Ni awarded championship shield to Mandalay Region Police Force team.

MNA



Zoologist to seek micro-algae's green potential

YANGON, 21 Jan—Zoologist Dr U Min Thein gives talk on "The Potential of Micro-Algae to Restore the Planet Earth" at UMFCCI Office Tower here on 4 February.

The event is organized by Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

MNA

Semifinals of fifth inter-ministry volleyball tournament on 23 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—The quarterfinals of the fifth inter-ministry men's volleyball tournament Nay Pyi Taw took place at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Ground this morning and evening.

Ministry of Industry team won over Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Construction Knocked out the Ministry of

Science and Technology. Ministry of Information defeated the Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Border Affairs beat Ministry of Finance and Revenue. On 23 January, Ministry of Industry will meet with Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Information with Ministry of Border Affairs in the semifinals.—MNA



Photo shows Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) which was opened on 31-12-2011 is the longest facility of its kind in Myanmar.—MNA

Maubin-Twantay tarred road opens

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Maubin-Twantay tarred road linking Twantay Township, Yangon South District and Maubin, Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region was opened at Mile Post No.30/1 this morning.

The road opening ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, departmental officials and others.

The Union Minister explained the purpose of opening the new tarred road and the chief minister spoke words of thanks on behalf of the local people. Then, the

Union Minister and Region Chief Minister and party cordially greeted those present. Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and region ministers formally opened the tarred road.

At the same time, the new tarred road opening ceremony was opened at Mile Post No.7/0, attended by Ayeyawady Region

Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun, departmental officials and others.

Maubin-Twantay tarred road which is 30 miles and one furlong long was built by the Ministry of Construction. —MNA

Union A&I Minister inspects model mechanized farming zone

YANGON, 21 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday inspected progress of Wakadok Dam and Zaungtu canal in Bago Township and Kodukwe Dam Project, Salu Dam Project, Shwelaung

Dam Project being built for prevention against floods in Bago Region.

At 10000-acre model mechanized model farming zone in Dagon Myothit Township of Yangon Region, the Union Minister viewed thriving

Paletwhe hybrid paddy plantation on 100 acres of farmland and the nursery for 300-acre Paletwhe paddy plantation.

The Union Minister left necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

Union F&R Minister receives IMF officials

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received the 2011 IMF

Article IV Consultation Mission led by Deputy Division Chief Ms Meral Karasulu of Asia and Pacific

Department of the International Monetary Fund at the ministry, here, yesterday afternoon.

They discussed bringing about development of Myanmar economy, stability of monetary system and realization of integrating the foreign exchange rate.

Also present at the call were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials concerned.

MNA

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint speaking at the opening of Maubin-Twantay tarred road (Yangon Section).—MNA



Marketable cabbages and Shan tomatoes of Thahtaygon Village of Tatkon Township

Article: Aung Kyaw Lin Kyi (Kyemon); Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

Thahtaygon village lies in Kyatheing village tract of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is a major vegetable provider of kitchen crops.

By Yangon-Mandalay Highway, the village's light soils produce high yield of seasonal fruits, driving the small village to engage in

crew at the entrance of the village. Trucks fully loaded with commodity which will go to kitchens far and wide the country were starting engines. Plantations of cauliflower, cabbage, radish, chili, tomato and onion coloured the road to the village green. Especially, cabbage plantations were

cabbage I have grown was kept in nursery for a month and then moved to the plantation. After 90 days, it is marketable and generates cash. A total of 15000 plants can be cultivated in a single acre with the distance of one and a half feet between each plant," farmer U Kyaw Thin said on the way to his plantation.



Farmer U Kyaw Thin

Pyawbwe, Meiktila and Mandalay. Also, nearby villages are among the consumers. These cabbages

are marketable. We have to prepare for cold season crops in September, late in the rainy season."

Cabbages of Thahtaygon village have bigger dark green petals and win consumers' like thanks to their huge size.

Kyaukme tomatoes were replaced by Shan tomatoes or Jessica-species tomatoes in the village's farms. An acre could bear 4000 plants of the latter. Effective pesticides and fertilizers were used in the plantations. The tomato plants are now bearing

fruits. Pesticides have to be broadcasted twice a month. Compared with the Kyaukme tomato, it saves cost and gives high yield, producing 10 viss per plant. Only the production of five or six viss per plant is enough to turn profit. Farmers attach high hope on this Jessica tomato. It could be kept for 50 years in storage, enabling the farmers to sell when they fetch demanded price, said U Kyaw Thin.

Translation: HKA Kyemon : 21-1-2012



Plantation of Shan tomato strain.

agriculture round the year. They irrigate their vegetable patches from artesian wells.

Kyemon news crew visited the village. Bullock carts loading cauliflowers, cabbages and radishes in queue welcomed the news

encouraging. Corn plantations, bending to and fro in favour of wind, stretched away to the distant horizon.

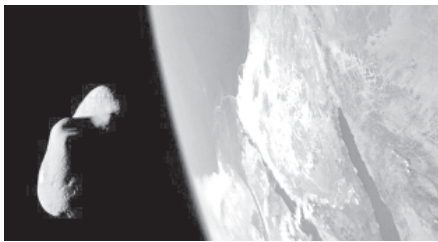
"I mainly grow cauliflower and cabbage as cold season crops in addition to radish and eggplant. The

When asked about market he added, "In this time of high demand, brokers even visit farms and buy commodity. An acre generates K1.8 million. They are transported mainly to Yangon and also to Mawlamyine, Thaton,



Marketable cabbages, a proud produce of Thahtaygon Village.

NEOShield to assess Earth defence

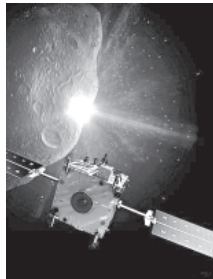


LONDON, 21 Jan — NEOShield is a new international project that will assess the threat posed by Near Earth Objects (NEO) and look at the best possible solutions for dealing with a big asteroid or comet on a collision path with our planet.

The effort is being led from the German space agency's (DLR) Institute of Planetary Research in Berlin, and had its kick-off meeting this week.

It will draw on expertise from across Europe, Russia and the US. It's a major EU-funded initiative that will pull together all the latest science, initiate a fair few laboratory experiments and

new modelling work, and then try to come to some definitive positions. Industrial partners, which



The European Space Agency designed — but never launched — the Don Quijote mission.—INTERNET

include the German, British and French divisions of the big Astrium space company, will consider the engineering architecture required to deflect one of these bodies out of our path.

Should we kick it, try to tug it, or even blast it off its trajectory? "We're going to collate all the scientific information with a view to mitigation," explains project leader Prof Alan Harris at DLR.

"What do you need to know about an asteroid in order to be able to change its course—to deflect it from a catastrophic course with the Earth?"

It's likely that NEOShield will, at the end of its three-and-a-half-year study period, propose to the politicians that they launch a mission to demonstrate the necessary technology.

The NEO threat may seem rather distant, but the geological and observational records tell us it is real.

Internet

Novartis drug investigated after 11 deaths

LONDON, 21 Jan — A European agency is investigating a multiple sclerosis drug made by industry giant Novartis to determine whether the medicine played any role in the deaths at least 11 patients.

The drug, Gilenya, was licensed last year in the European Union to treat a severe type of multiple sclerosis. It can cause a slow heart rate when first taken and doctors closely monitor patients after the first dose.

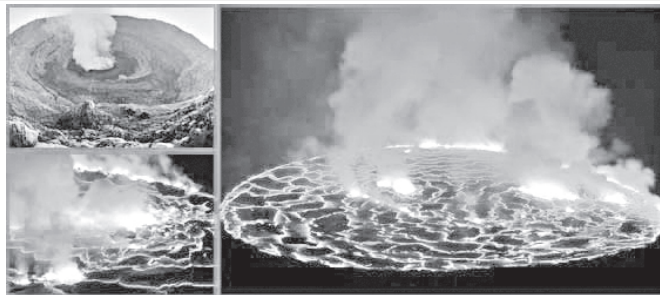
The European Medicines Agency, which is now investigating the drug, said it isn't clear if it caused the deaths. One of the fatalities occurred in the United States, where a patient died within 24 hours of taking the first dose.

The European agency said it didn't know

where the other 10 deaths occurred, but that they were reported to its drug database, which monitors side effects from medicines in the European Union.

Novartis said not all the deaths were heart related. A spokeswoman at the US Food and Drug Administration said it also is conducting a data analysis but has not made any definitive conclusions and does not know when its review will be complete. More than 30,000 patients have taken Gilenya worldwide.

The European Medicines Agency advised doctors to increase their monitoring of patients after the first dose of the medicine. The agency said the risk of a slow heart rate after the first dose of Gilenya was known when it was approved.— Internet



Mount Nyiragongo's lava lake has at times been the most voluminous known lava lake in the world.— XINHUA

Study reveals mechanism of lung cancer drug resistance

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan— New research published this week in *Nature Medicine* indicates that targeted drugs such as gefitinib might more effectively treat non-small cell lung cancer if they could be combined with agents that block certain microRNAs.

The study, led by investigators with the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Centre, shows that overexpression of two genes called MET and EGFR causes the deregulation of six microRNAs, and that this deregulation leads to gefitinib resistance.

The findings support the development of agents that restore the levels of these microRNAs. It offers a new strategy for treating non-small cell lung cancer, which is responsible for about 85 percent of the 221,000 lung-cancer cases and 157,000 deaths that occur annually in

the United States. It also suggests that measuring the expression levels of certain microRNAs — those controlled by the MET gene — might predict which lung-cancer cases are likely to be resistant to gefitinib.

Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is frequently overexpressed in non-small cell lung cancer, and this leads to uncontrolled cell proliferation. Gefitinib selectively inhibits EGFR activation and triggers cancer cells to self-destruct by apoptosis. However, non-small cell lung cancer cells inevitably develop resistance to the drug. The study reveals how this resistance occurs. "Our findings suggest that gefitinib resistance that is caused by MET overexpression is at least partly due to miRNA deregulation," says principal investigator Carlo Croce.

Xinhua

Elusive endangered monkeys caught on camera in Borneo



Now you see them: The little-known Miller's grizzled langur.—INTERNET

JAKARTA, 21 Jan — One of the world's most endangered primates has been caught on camera by scientists on the island of Borneo. Using time-lapse recordings to investigate the diversity of the remote Wehea forest, the team were surprised to see an unusual sub-species. Close analysis confirmed that they had photographed a group of Miller's grizzled langurs. Fears for the monkeys' future were sparked last year when none were recorded in previously known habitats.

The international team of researchers suggest their evidence could indicate a more optimistic future. "Our findings confirm that indeed this monkey still lives in the forests of Borneo and we found that its range extends farther inland than scientists had previously thought," said PhD student Brent Loken from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada. "This gives us hope that we may still be able to find large enough populations of this monkey to ensure its survival." The team's findings are published in the

American Journal of *Primateology*.

Populations of Miller's grizzled langurs were first described in Kutai National Park and Sangkulirang Peninsula, East Kalimantan, Indonesia, in 1985. However, due to habitat loss and hunting, subsequent studies recorded falling numbers of the monkeys in these areas with no activity recorded last year. Scientists from Indonesia, the Czech Republic, US and Canada worked together to set up hidden cameras so they could learn more about the animals living in the rainforest.

Stunned by the results of their initial camera-trap study, scientists returned to the location to photograph the little-known monkeys in greater detail. "It was a challenge to confirm our finding as there are so few pictures of this monkey available for study," said Mr Loken. "The only description of Miller's grizzled langur came from museum specimens. Our photographs from Wehea are some of the only pictures that we have of this monkey."— Internet



Scientists returned for more photographs.— INTERNET

Body of Iraq kidnap victim Alan McMenemy handed over

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan — The British Embassy in Baghdad has confirmed that a body handed over to them is that of Alan McMenemy, who was kidnapped in Iraq in 2007. Mr McMenemy, a security guard from Glasgow, was snatched along with three other guards and an IT expert. The bodies of Jason Swindlehurst, Jason Creswell and Alec MacLachlan were returned in 2009. Peter Moore was released alive in 2010. Mr McMenemy's widow said his family would be comforted by having him home.

Roseleen McMenemy said: "Our families have suffered terrible uncertainty and distress over the past four years and eight months. "We have worried about Alan every single minute of each waking day. "We now know that we will shortly have Alan home again, this will allow us to properly grieve for him and we will draw some comfort from the fact that we have him home at last." The men were snatched by militants posing as police at the Iraqi finance ministry in May 2007. The four dead men were acting as bodyguards for Mr Moore. He was freed on 30 December 2009, 946 days after he was kidnapped.— Internet

US scientists convert seaweed to renewable fuels, chemicals

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — A team of scientists from California-based Bio Architecture Lab (BAL) has developed breakthrough technology that expands the feedstocks for advanced biofuels and renewable chemicals production to include seaweed (macroalgae). The team engineered a microbe to extract all the major sugars in seaweed and convert them into renewable fuels and chemicals, thus making seaweed a cost-effective, renewable source of biomass.

The research will be detailed Friday in an article on journal *Science*. "About 60 percent of the dry biomass of seaweed are fermentable carbohydrates, and approximately half of those are locked in a single carbohydrate — alginate," said Daniel Trunfio, chief executive officer at Bio Architecture Lab. "Our scientists have engineered an enzyme to degrade and a pathway to metabolize the alginate, allowing us to utilize all the major sugars in seaweed, which therefore makes the biomass an economical feedstock for the production of renewable fuels and chemicals."— Xinhua

The curvature of barn owls' wings helps them fly slowly and silently.—INTERNET

Barn owl wings adapted for silent flight

CHARLESTON, 21 Jan — Their screech is one of



noiseless flight. Their supreme stealth is thanks, largely, to their ability to fly so slowly—with relatively little beating of their wings. And the shape and size of the owls' wings enables this very slow flight.

Dr Thomas Bachmann from the Technical University Darmstadt in Germany recently presented his study of barn owl wings at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology's annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. He explained to BBC Nature that barn owls were highly specialised nocturnal hunters. "They hunt mainly in the dark, so visual information is very limited.

"They use acoustic information to locate their prey."

Their silent flight helps them listen for the scurrying of the voles they hunt for, and also reduces their chances of being heard by the prey as they approach. To find out how they managed to fly so slowly and quietly, Dr Bachmann examined the birds' wings in minute detail. He examined the plumage and took 3-D medical scans of their skeletal structure. The wings' most important features, he explained, were the high curvature or "camber" of the wings. This curvature means that each wing beat produces more lift.

Internet



- * Barn owls can locate their prey in total darkness, using only their hearing
- * The owls' heart-shaped face works in a similar way to humans' outer ears - collecting

and directing sound toward the inner ears
* Each of a barn owls' two ears is a slightly different size and shape, and one is higher on the bird's head than the other. The owls can analyse the differences in the sound received by each ear to automatically calculate the exact position of that sound-source

Firefighters battle a fast-moving brush fire in Pleasant Valley, south of Reno, Nev, on 19 Jan, 2012.
INTERNET



nature's eeriest sounds, but barn owls hunt in almost total silence. Now researchers in Germany have revealed how the predators' wings are specially adapted to allow

29 homes lost in Nevada fire; 2,000 evacuated

threat: the storm was expected to bring high winds and a burst of rain and snow that could cause flash flooding on the charred land. "The weather poses a significant threat," fire commander Paul Washam said. "We've got a lot of work to do and a short time to do it. If it rains, we'll have flood concerns."

Emergency crews, meanwhile, escorted evacuees in two separate burn areas to see their houses. Officials said evacuation orders would continue—even in areas unaffected by the fire. Connie Cryer went to the fire response command post on Friday with her 12-year-old granddaughter, Maddie Miramon, to find out if her house had survived the flames.

"We had to know so we could get some sleep," Cryer said, adding her house was spared but a neighbor's wasn't. She had seen wildfires before, but nothing on this scale. "There was fire in front of me, fire beside me, fire behind me. It was everywhere," she said. "I don't know how more didn't burn up. It was terrible, all the wind and the smoke." The blaze started shortly after noon Thursday and, fueled by the wind gusts, mushroomed to more than 6 square miles before firefighters stopped its surge toward Reno.—Internet

RENO, 21 Jan—Reno hasn't seen a winter this dry in more than 120 years. So residents welcomed a forecast that a storm was due to blow across the Sierra Nevada this week. Instead, as many as 10,000 found themselves fleeing their homes while howling winds gusting to 82 mph pushed a fire toward them, destroying 29 homes and torching thousands of acres.

As the fire eased on Friday, residents faced another



The ship is on sand near Wijk aan Zee.

INTERNET

Cargo ship Aztec Maiden runs aground off Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, 21 Jan—A cargo ship has run aground on the Dutch coast 20km (12 miles) west of Amsterdam after its anchor slipped in an overnight storm. The empty vessel appeared to be stable after drifting towards the coast and rescue services said there was no sign of any fuel leak. It was named as the 155-metre (500-foot) Aztec Maiden, a Philippine-registered freighter with a crew of 21. Work to pull the ship free is due to begin on Saturday afternoon. There were no reports of injuries after the ship broke free and drifted, coming to rest on sand about 200m (yds) offshore, near the North Sea coastal town of Wijk aan Zee. "As far as we can judge, the ship is stable," Peter Verborg of the Dutch coast guard told state broadcaster NOS.

While there was no sign of oil leaks, the coast guard was "monitoring it very closely", he added. The salvage company Svitzer had hoped to try to get the ship moving again at high tide on Friday afternoon, using tug boats. It landed salvors aboard the ship by helicopter. However, conditions proved unfavourable and a new attempt is scheduled for 14:00 (13:00 GMT) on Saturday, the local authorities in nearby Heemskerk said. Coast guards were surveying the ship from the air to check for damage. People watching the ship from the beach told Reuters news agency they were worried about the possibility of oil spilling into the sea. "I hope the oil is not going to leak out, because then the oil will come into the sea, and the fish will die, and you can not swim anymore," said 10-year-old Jeroen, who had come to watch the ship.—Internet



Costa Concordia operation halted amid weather fears

ROME, 21 Jan — The rescue operation aboard the Costa Concordia has been suspended once again after the wreck shifted on the sea ledge on which it rests. It is the third time the search has been called off, amid fears the ship could suddenly slip into deeper water. Choppy waters have been hampering the work of rescue teams and weather conditions are expected to worsen. Earlier, a video emerged showing the crew of the stricken vessel assuring passengers nothing was wrong. In the amateur footage, a crew member says "everything is under control" and asks passengers to go to their cabins despite the fact that the cruise ship had begun taking in water. It is thought the delay in deciding to abandon the ship may have cost lives. At least 11 people died after the Costa Concordia ran aground off Italy's coast exactly a week ago with some 4,200 people on board. Twenty-one people are still missing, and hopes of finding any of them alive are fading fast.

The ship's movements have twice before interrupted the work of rescuers, with the search suspended almost all day on Wednesday. More movement on Friday forced rescuers on board the vessel and divers working in the waters around it to stop work, said a spokesman for the coastguard, Cosima Nicastro. Investigations were under way to assess the danger posed by the ship's instability, he said.—Internet



Rescuers on board the ship and divers inspecting the wreck in the waters around it have been forced to halt work.—INTERNET

London skyscraper stalls as builders down tools

LONDON, 21 Jan—Construction of what will become the tallest skyscraper in London's financial district has stalled after builders downed tools over funding concerns, a source close to the matter told Reuters. Canadian firm Brookfield Construction restarted building work on the Pinnacle tower late last year after it slowed to a virtual standstill as developer Arab Investments tried to secure the next stage of funding for the 945-foot tower.

A deal was struck that included a 500 million pounds debt facility from a group of lenders including HSBC and HSH Nordbank, plus the injection of new equity from Saudi Arabia-based investor consortium Sedco. It was reliant on the developer pre-letting a chunk of the tower to lower the scheme's risk, which it has not yet done. The tower is currently at an early stage of construction, appearing as a stump in the ground.

"About a week ago building work stopped," the source said. "The bottom line is that the Pinnacle will need looking at from a funding point of view or a sizeable pre-let which is difficult in this market." A Brookfield spokesman declined to comment and Arab Investments was not immediately available for comment. The 64-storey skyscraper is one of several under construction in central London. HSH has already provided 140 million pounds of debt to help buy and prepare the site for the main construction work while Sedco has put in several hundred million pounds to date.—Reuters

Hollywood body parts identified

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan — Police say they have identified the man whose severed head was found near the iconic Hollywood sign in Los Angeles. LAPD did not provide further details about his identity, but did confirm

that hands and feet found on nearby hiking trails belonged to the same man. Dog walkers found the head wrapped in a plastic bag on Tuesday. Police said no arrests had been made in the case.

The Los Angeles Times

reports that the head belonged to a man in his 40s with greying hair. The head's condition indicated that it had been disposed of only recently, according to the newspaper. Police Commander Andrew Smith

told the Associated Press the man may have been recently killed and his body dumped in the park in the Hollywood Hills.

The search operation involved 100 police and park rangers spread out along trails and wooded areas around the sign.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JINDAL TARA VOY NO (115N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JINDAL TARA VOY NO (115N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CARRIER KING
LOGISTIC SERVICES LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Crocodile swallows

Indonesian girl

JAKARTA, 21 Jan—A wild crocodile swallowed a 10-year-old girl while she played in a river with her father in eastern Indonesia, the second death in the same place in two months, a local official said on Friday.

The girl was swimming in Wailong river on Thursday when the large crocodile suddenly appeared, swallowed her instantly and disappeared into the water, said Viktor Mado Waton, Lembata district head in East Nusa Tenggara Province. "They only found the girl's clothes three hours after the incident, some 200 metres (650 feet) away from the attack site," he said, adding that her family members were still trying to find the body.

"Her father saw this shocking scene as he was only five metres away in the water." He said the father and the girl's teenage brother were hunting turtles in the river while she was playing. A 12-year-old boy was killed and eaten by a crocodile in the same river in early December when he was playing with his friends, Waton said. The district head said he has warned

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1204)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1204) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



A crocodile in captivity at a Jakarta water park in 2007. A wild crocodile swallowed a 10-year-old girl while she played in a river with her father in eastern Indonesia, the second death in the same place in two months, a local official said on Friday.—INTERNET

locals of the danger and he will work with police to shut the area off to prevent another incident.— Internet



Dante Autullo took the opportunity to post his x-ray to Facebook in the ambulance between hospitals.

INTERNET

Man shoots nail into brain without noticing

OAK LAWN, 21 Jan — A suburban Chicago man accidentally shot a 3.25in (8.25cm) nail into his skull but is recovering after doctors successfully removed it from the centre of his brain. Dante Autullo, 34, was in his workshop when a nail gun recoiled near his head. But he had no idea the nail had entered his brain until the next day, when he began feeling nauseous.

Doctors told Mr Autullo that the nail came within millimetres of the area used for motor function. His fiancée, Gail Glaenzer, told the Associated Press on Friday that he was in good spirits after the two-hour surgery to remove the nail at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

He feels good. He moved all his limbs, he's talking normal, he remembers everything," she said. "It's amazing, a miracle." Ms Glaenzer said she had no idea the nail had entered his skull when she cleaned a cut on his forehead. She convinced him to go to the hospital after he felt nauseous for much of Wednesday.

Mr Autullo thought that the nail gun had simply hit his forehead, but realised later that when the gun came in contact with his head, the sensor recognised a flat surface and fired. While there are pain-sensitive nerves on a person's skull, there are none within the brain itself. Hospital spokesman Mike Maggio said the part of the skull that was removed for surgery had to be replaced with a titanium mesh amid worries that it might have been contaminated by the nail.— Internet



Gail Glaenzer said he jokingly told her to get the TV cameras: "I'm one of those medical miracles" INTERNET

The dogs and their mushers will race over snow this weekend. INTERNET

Aviemore Sled Dog Rally takes place on snow

LONDON, 21 Jan—About 1,000 dogs will compete over



snow in Britain's biggest husky race, in the forests around Aviemore over the weekend. Last year, three-wheel rigs had to be used in the Aviemore Dog Sled Rally because snow that had fallen earlier had thawed. Adults can race over a course stretching to seven miles (11km) through Glenmore Forest Park. There is also a two-mile

Internet

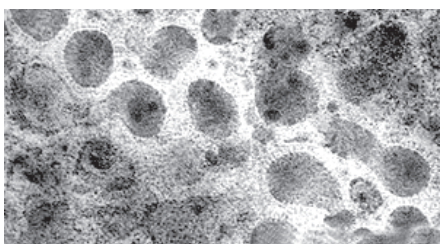
Bioterror fears halt research on mutant bird flu

LONDON, 21 Jan — Scientists who created a more deadly strain of bird flu have temporarily stopped their research amid fears it could be used by bioterrorists. In a letter published in Science and Nature, the teams call for an "international forum" to debate the risks and value of the studies.

US authorities last month

asked the authors of the research to redact key details in forthcoming publications. A government advisory panel suggested the data could be used by terrorists. Biosecurity experts fear a mutant form of the virus could spark a pandemic deadlier than the 1918-19 Spanish flu outbreak that killed up to 40 million people. The National Science

Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) recommended key details be omitted from publication of the research, which sparked international furor. "I would have preferred if this hadn't caused so much controversy, but it has happened and we can't change that," Ron Fouchier, a researcher from Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, told Science Insider. "So I think it's the right step to make." While bird flu is deadly, its reach has been limited because it is not transmissible between humans. However, the H5N1 flu virus was altered to be passed easily between ferrets, during the joint research by Erasmus University in the Netherlands and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US.—Internet



A majority of H5N1 human cases have been contracted through contact with live or dead poultry.—INTERNET

Astrium space company on 'stable' course

LONDON, 21 Jan — Astrium, Europe's biggest space company, is to investigate the best strategies for protecting Earth from threatening asteroids. The EU-funded research project is one of a host of ventures that will occupy the firm in the year ahead, its chief executive Francois Augues said. The CEO was giving his annual New Year Press briefing in Paris.

Astrium had "stable" revenues of 5bn euros (£4.2bn) in 2011, with new contract wins valued at 3.6bn euros. These new orders included four telecoms satellites and the management role in the proposed European Data Relay System (EDRS), which will dramatically improve the speed at which Earth observation information can be pulled down from spacecraft in orbit.

"2011 was a good year. In terms of volume of activity, it was stable," Mr Auque told BBC News.

"In terms of new orders, it allowed us to keep about three years of work ahead of us." Astrium employs about 15,000 employees, mainly in France, Germany, the UK, Spain and the Netherlands. It is the consequence of consolidation among a

number big European space companies at the turn of the century. Astrium's workload is largely dominated (70%) by government and institutional orders, such as the M51 nuclear missile programme and the Pleiades high-resolution satellite system it delivered to France this year. It also leads the production of Europe's Ariane 5 rocket.— Internet



The skyscrapers of Dubai pictured by the new Pleiades-1 high-resolution satellite.— INTERNET

Pet dog saves two children from deadly snake

An Australian family's dog is being called a hero after it rescued two young girls from a snake attack.

18-month-old River spotted a two-foot-long brown snake hiding under a children's swing just as 7-year-old Michelle Lynch and 2-year-old Kaylee were headed its way. The brown snake is considered the second-most deadly land snake, whose venom is strong enough to easily kill an adult human.

"Michelle loves River, and River loves Michelle. Kaylee thinks that River is a fantastic toy," said Ben Lynch.

The snake reared its head at the two girls, ready to attack, when River jumped to their defence.

"River came bursting out and jumped on the snake," Michelle Lynch said of her rescuer. Unfortunately, River was bitten in the attack and began to suffer from paralysis a few hours later. The Lynch family took River to the vet, where he is receiving anti-venom and is expected to make a full recovery.



River the dog, with Michelle and Kaylee.

"They're a pack animal and we're their pack so it's definitely their instinct to get in there, especially when kids are involved," said Catherine Lynch. "She's a very sweet, friendly dog. She's very much part of our family," said Catherine Lynch.

Florida police officers paid to drink alcohol, eat Doritos on the job

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has fallen under scrutiny for paying several employees to drink alcohol on the job in order to test a breathalyzer.

Last October, the department allocated \$300 for Jim Beam whiskey, Doritos and drink mixers. *The Herald Tribune* reports that it was part of an effort to preserve the embattled "Intoxilyzer 8000" from being phased out. 15 law enforcement employees were then invited

to department headquarters in Tallahassee to drink and eat on the job.

The department set up a video camera to record the events, while FDLE crime



The "Intoxilyzer 8000"

analysts, staff assistants and Capitol Police officers drank. Blood tests were then taken and sent to a local lab with a total price tag of \$8,000 for the effort.

News Album

Farmer caught spray-painting hawks as part of "prank" on bird-watchers

A New Zealand farmer has been caught spray-painting hawks in a pinkish-red hue as part of a "prank" on bird-watchers who were hoping to have discovered a new species of bird.

Grant Michael Teahan

has been found guilty on two charges of ill-treating an animal, according to the *Manawatu Standard*.

The mystery began in early 2009, when locals began snapping pictures of the strangely coloured hawks

and sending them to the local newspaper. It was only after one of the hawks was accidentally hit by a car that the spray-painting ruse was discovered.

An investigation by the Society for the Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) failed to turn up a culprit until Teahan asked his nephew to send a video clip to the media of him catching a magpie in a trap covered in the spray paint.

When police seized computers from Teahan's property, they found deleted pictures and video relating to "red hawks."



Hopes for a new species of hawk turned out to be a case of animal abuse.

Winners from the 21st Seoul Music Awards



South Korean girl band Girls' Generation perform during the 21st Seoul Music Awards in the Olympic Park of Seoul, capital of South Korea, on 19 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

SEOUL, 21 Jan—On 19th January, the 21st Seoul Music Awards kicked off at the Seoul Olympic Stadium.

Sponsored by Sports Seoul, High One Resort and supported by the Korean Commission, the prestigious event is the greatest celebration in the domestic music industry and a platform for recognition.

Seoul Music Awards

honoured deserving artists from different genres with Daesang Award, Bonsang Award, Best Album Award, Digital Music Award, Rookie Award, R&B Award and more.

Full lists of the winners from 21st Seoul Music Awards below:

- Daesang Award**
- Super Junior
 - Best Album Award
 - IU

Digital Music Award

- T-ara
- Popularity Award**
- Lee Seung Gi
- Girls' Generation

Rookie Award

- B1A4
- A-Pink
- Boyfriend

Bonsang Award

- Sistar
- FT Island
- Secret
- 4Minute
- IU
- B2ST
- KARA
- Miss A
- T-ara
- Girls' Generation
- Lee Seung Gi
- Super Junior

Best R&B Award

- 4Men

Best Hip Hop Award

- Clover

Best OST Award

- Baek Ji Young

Hallyu Award

- KARA
- Congratulations to all the winners!—Xinhua

Kenny G and wife separate

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan—Lyndie Benson-Gorelick has filed for legal separation from musician Kenny G after 20 years of marriage, Los Angeles County Superior Court records show.

TMZ said Benson-Gorelick cited "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for the split.

She and Kenny G, who are the parents of two sons, have already hired divorce lawyers, the celebrity news Web site said.—Internet



Musician Kenny G rides on a float in the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade held in Pasadena, California on 2 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET



Jessie J, Miles Kane and Magnetic Man join Isle of Wight festival line-up

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—Jessie, whose hit records include Price Tag, Domino and Nobody's Perfect, has secured a slot on the main stage on 23rd June and will play ahead of Tinie Tempah, Scottish rockers Biffy Clyro and the headliners Pearl Jam.

Magnetic Man will headline the Big Top stage on the Saturday evening and Kane will warm up the crowd on the Garden Stage ahead of The Charlatans.

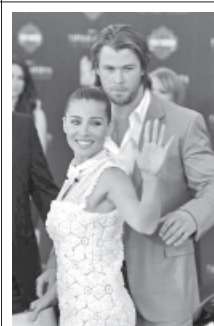
Other headliners at the festival include Tom Petty and Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, who will close the event on 24th June.

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Feeder, The Vaccines, Noah And The Whale and Example have also been confirmed on the line-up alongside festival constants Madness.

This year's acts will have big shoes to fill after 2011 saw impressive performances from Kasabian, Kings Of Leon, Pulp and Foo Fighters.

The festival has taken Glastonbury's usual slot this year so it can avoid the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations and the half-term school holidays.

Internet



Chris Hemsworth and his wife, actress Elsa Pataky, attend the premiere of the film "Captain America: The First Avenger" at the El Capitan Theater in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on 19 July, 2011.

INTERNET

Hemsworth and Pataky expecting first child

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan—Chris Hemsworth's publicist told People.com the Australian actor's wife, Spanish actress Elsa Pataky, is pregnant with their first child. The baby is due to be born this spring, the celebrity news Web site said.

"Chris and I are ecstatic, very happy and excited," Pataky, 35, told *Hola!* magazine. "Since it's our first child we don't care if it's a boy or girl, our only wish is that it's healthy." The couple married in 2010. Hemsworth, 28, is best known for his work in "Thor." Pataky starred in TV's "Queen of Swords" and had a supporting role in the film "Fast Five."—Internet

Kirstie Alley heads back to 'Cheers'

BOSTON, 21 Jan—Actress Kirstie Alley says she made a surprise appearance at the real Boston bar on which her classic sitcom "Cheers" was based. The former "Dancing with the Stars" competitor surprised staff at the tavern when she dropped by Thursday morning for the first time since 1990, The Boston Globe reported.

"They were very excited," Alley told the newspaper. "I haven't been



Kirstie Alley arrives for the "Bad Teacher" Premiere at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York on 20 June, 2011.—INTERNET

there for a long time, so it was cool." The actress went to

the bar with Serge Onik, a former contestant on "So You Think You Can Dance," as part of her 100 Days of Dance initiative to live a healthy lifestyle. The Globe said Alley and Onik have been traveling the country and taping themselves dancing every day. They dance to the "Cheers" theme song when they stopped by the Boston bar, the newspaper said.

The footage is posted on 100daysofdance.com.

Internet

Djokovic overwhelms Mahut to reach pre-quarters



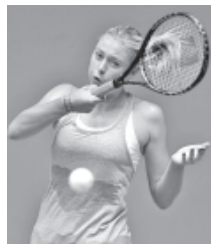
MELBOURNE, 21 Jan—World No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia earned an easy 6-0 6-1 6-1 victory over Frenchman Nicolas Mahut in his third-round encounter of the 2012 Australian Open and stormed into the fourth-round of this Grand Slam tournament.

As expected, defending champion Novak

Djokovic looked absolutely relentless on Saturday as he outplayed World No. 81 Nicolas Mahut in his third-round encounter of the 2012 Australian Open and stormed into the fourth-round of this year's first Grand Slam tournament, by registering a comprehensive 6-0 6-1 6-1 victory. Well, the Frenchman did not look near to his best as he was not moving well on the court due to a heavily strapped right knee and Djokovic also praised the Frenchman during his post match-on-court interview with Jim Courier that Mahut could have retired early on but he finished the match and stayed on court despite all the pain—and it was certainly a feat in a way.—*Internet*



World No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia.



World No. 4 Maria Sharapova of Russia

MELBOURNE, 21 Jan—World No. 4 Maria Sharapova of Russia edged past World No. 30 Angelique Kerber of Germany in straight sets with a 6-1 6-2 scoreline and secured

Sharapova defies German challenge to secure her berth in the last 16 of the Aussie Open

her berth in the pre-quarterfinals of the 2012 Australian Open.

Bidding for her fourth Grand Slam title, former World No. 1 Maria Sharapova of Russia earned a comprehensive 6-1 6-2 victory over World No. 30 Angelique Kerber of Germany in straight sets with a 6-1 6-2 scoreline on Saturday and secured her berth in the pre-quarterfinals of the 2012 Australian Open. What expected as a stiff battle,

ended-up as an easy match for Sharapova, who made a convincing start to the match, struggled a bit in the second-set, but then sailed home with straight sets victory. Sharapova took 1 hour and 27 minutes to finish this match, as she earned 73% points on

her first-serve and also hammered 32 massive winners. The Russian also got benefitted from Kerber's 23 unforced errors and converted 5 out of 8 break-points. Kerber could only convert 1 out of 6 break-points.—*Internet*

Li Na gets a clear passage into last 16 of the Australian Open



China's Li Na

MELBOURNE, 21 Jan—Li Na advanced to the pre-quarter finals of the Australian Open when her opponent Annabel Medinagarriges was forced to retire with an ankle injury.

Li Na had a smooth passage into the second week of the

Australian Open when her Spanish opponent Annabel Medinagarriges retired from their match due to an ankle injury. Na led 3-0 when her opponent left the court crying in excruciating pain after she twisted her ankle when she tried reaching for a ball.

Li started the match on a strong note by holding her serve and breaking Medinagarriges' serve. She later consolidated the break and led 2-0, when while trying to reach for a backhand by Li, Medinagarriges twisted her ankle was left stranded on court.—*Internet*

Kvitova sails into Aussie Open pre-quarters, as injured Kirilenko retires

MELBOURNE, 21 Jan—Second-seeded Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic easily made it into the 2012 Australian Open pre-quarterfinals on Saturday after her opponent Maria Kirilenko of Russia retired from their third-round match, when Kvitova was leading with 6-0 1-0.

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic secured her berth in the last sixteen of the 2012 Australian on Saturday after her opponent Maria Kirilenko of Russia retired from their

third-round match, when Kvitova was leading with 6-0 1-0.

Kirilenko looked utterly dejected and left the court with a heavy heart as her leg injury did not allow her to carry on.

The Russian availed a medical time-out break, while she was trailing with 5-0 in the first set, but that did not help and after losing the first set and then the first game of the second-set – the Russian decided to quit.

Intern

Wilson shoots 62 to join leading duo at PGA Humana

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan—Mark Wilson fired a 10-under par 62 to join Ben Crane and David Toms atop the leaderboard after two rounds at the US PGA Tour's Humana Challenge, where low scores tumbled in.

Wilson had eight birdies and an eagle in a flawless round on Friday, at the Palmer Private course, one of three par-72 layouts in use for the \$5.6 million event.

Crane carded a 63 on the Palmer course and Toms shot a 65 on the Nicklaus Private course as the leaders finished 36 holes on 16-under 128.

They were three shots ahead of Colombia's Camilo Villegas, Harris English, Chris Kirk and Bobby Gates, who shared fourth on 131.

English also posted a 62, with his round coming on the Nicklaus layout. Villegas carded a 68 while Kirk and Gates both shot 63. Wilson admitted that when he eagled the par-five 11th to get to eight-under for the day, the thought of reaching golf's magic number of 59 crossed his mind.

"I don't know why the conversation went there ... but



Mark Wilson lines up his second shot next to a herd of bighorn sheep on the 16th hole at the Palmer Private Course at the PGA West during the second round of the Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation golf tournament, on 20 January, in La Quinta, California.—*INTERNET*

I thought about it," said Wilson, who made two more birdies on the way home, the last of which came when he sank an eight-foot putt at the last for his share of the lead.

Low scores are nothing new for this tournament, formerly known as the Bob Hope Classic. The Nicklaus and Palmer courses at the PGA West resort ranked as two of the three least difficult layouts on the US tour last season.

David Duval fired a 59 on the Palmer course 13 years ago with four 61s being recorded in 2009 and there have been 14 rounds of 62 in the past four years.—*Internet*

Crane soars into a tie for the lead at La Quinta

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan—Boosted by extra work spent on his putting last week, Ben Crane fired a sparkling nine-under-par 63 to surge into a tie for the second-round lead in the Humana Challenge at La Quinta, California on Friday.

The 35-year-old American birdied two of his last four holes on the Palmer Private course at PGA West, one of three venues hosting the pro-am celebrity event, to post a 16-under total of 128. That put him level with compatriots David Toms (65) and Mark Wilson (62), who also took advantage of near-perfect scoring conditions on another sun-splashed day in the California desert. PGA Tour rookie Harris English was a further three strokes back after matching Wilson with a best-of-the-week 62 to finish alongside fellow Americans Chris Kirk (63) and Bobby Gates (63), plus Colombian Camilo Villegas (68). Crane, who won his fourth PGA Tour title at last year's McGladrey Classic, was delighted with his score after making a few tweaks to his game since the end of last season. "We made a couple of little adjustments with my swing, a couple of shoulder alignment things, and it's freed me up with the full swing," Crane told reporters after totaling just 22 putts. "And then my putting coach came in last week and we worked on seeing the line and hitting my line with the putting and I was able to do that. "I made a lot of 10 and 15-footers, and all my kind-of-close putts for birdie. I putted extremely well and every part of my game felt great. I guess that's how you do it."—*Reuters*



US golfer Ben Crane chips onto the 10th green during second round of the WGC Accenture Match Play Championships golf tournament in Marana, Arizona on 24 Feb, 2011.

Bayern beaten 3-1 by 'Gladbach in Bundesliga

BERLIN, 21 Jan—Marco Reus scored one goal and set up another as Borussia Moechengladbach threw the Bundesliga title race wide open by beating leader Bayern Munich 3-1 Friday in the first game after the winter break.

Reus capitalized on a blunder from Manuel Neuer to score in the 11th minute, when he returned the Germany goalkeeper's attempted clearance from 30 meters (yards).

"I'm sorry. My loose pass led to the defeat," Neuer said. "Of course that's bitter."



Moechengladbach's shooting star Marco Reus, center, controls the ball against three Bayern players during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match.

Patrick Herrmann made it 2-0 in the 41st, and added another goal in the 71st after being set up by Reus.

Bastian Schweinsteiger, back after recovering from a broken collarbone, scored Bayern's 76th-minute consolation.

Moechengladbach moves within one point of Bayern with the victory, while Schalke and defending champion Dortmund can both move level with Bayern on 37 points later this weekend.

"We played into 'Gladbach's hands with the early goal," said Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes, a former Moechengladbach striker and coach. Reus rejected Bayern's overtures this past offseason, instead opting for a \$17 million (\$21.81 million) move to Dortmund at the end of this season, and the 22-year-old winger gratefully accepted Neuer's wayward clearance before dispatching it into the unguarded net for his 11th goal of the season.

Internet

International Sports

Norwich City 0-0 Chelsea

Fernando Torres frustrated again as Blues are held to a goalless draw at Carrow Road

LONDON, 21 Jan—Torres, now without a goal in 17 games, went close in an even first half but toe-poked a glorious chance wide as the Blues dominated the second period.

Grant Holt shot narrowly wide for the hosts before the interval.

But goalkeeper John Ruddy had to be in inspired form to help earn his side their first clean sheet of the season.

Ruddy pulled off several classy stops as an increasingly desperate home side battled manfully to keep out the visitors after the break.

With four of the top five meeting on Sunday, the Londoners knew they had a wonderful chance to reduce the 11-point gap on leaders Manchester City.

But Chelsea lacked urgency before the break, and when they did step up the pace, Ruddy twice saved brilliantly from Juan Mata and also denied Ramires.

Raul Meireles also shot over while Torres squandered the game's best opportunity when he shot wide from 10 yards following great work on the right by Florent Malouda.



Torres has not scored in 17 games for club and country

The outstanding moment and best chance of a first half also fell to the Spaniard when he forced a superb fingertip save from Ruddy.

The lively Anthony Pilkington also twice nearly set up goals and Bradley Johnson could easily have put City ahead but his shot from the edge of the box deflected off John Terry and into the arms of Petr Cech.—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL (22-1-12 09:30 am ~ 23-1-12 09:30 am) MST

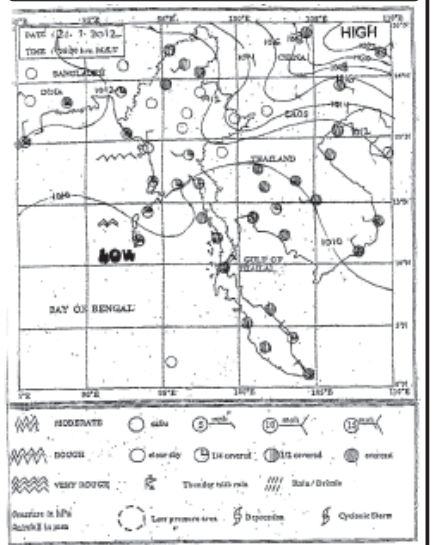
Overseas Transmission

- * News
- * The Hills of Phowin Taung and Shwebataung
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Royal Quick-fried Fish"
- * The Excellent Yangon Expo (2012)
- * News
- * Youth and Career
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * MI People's Celebrities "Brilliant" (Soe Myat Thuzar)
- * Valuable Myanmar Native Orchids
- * The Richly Blessed Gem Land
- * Silk-Ware from Amarapura
- * VCD Centre
- * Education Malaysia, Math Challenge and Teacher Enhancement Workshop
- * History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- * Myanmar Movies "Unchangeable Love"

MYANMAR TV (22-1-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:40 am
- 4. International News
- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial Song
- 11:30 pm
- 2. TV Drama Series
- 12:30 pm
- 3. Myanmar Movies
- 2:00 pm
- 4. Documentary
- 2:30 pm
- 5. Favourite Oldies
- 4:35 pm
- 6. Dance Of National Races
- 5:00 pm
- 7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 6:20 pm
- 8. Cartoon Series
- 6:40 pm
- 9. Myanmar Series
- 7:00 pm
- 10. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 11. News
- 12. Cartoon Series
- 13. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 22nd January, 2012

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past (24) hours, rain of thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon Region, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago Regions, Eastern Shan and Kayah States, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State, (5°C) above January average temperatures in Taninthayi Region and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (-1°C), Namsam and Heho (1°C) each.

Nay Pyi Taw weather: Maximum temperature on 20-1-2012 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 21-1-2012 was 54°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-1-2012 was 64%. Total rainfall hours on 21-1-2012 was (Nil).

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22nd January 2012: Likelihood of isolated light or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Night temperatures decrease are likely in Upper Myanmar area.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-1-2012: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-1-2012: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-1-2012: Generally fair weather.

Results on Saturday, 21st Jan 2012.

Everton	1-1	Blackburn
Fulham	5-2	Newcastle
Norwich	0-0	Chelsea
QPR	3-1	Wigan
Stoke	1-2	West Brom
Sunderland	2-0	Swansea
Wolves	2-3	Aston Villa

Answer for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



Asleep in Jesus Mrs. Teresa Doss Aged (87)

Beloved wife of (Mr. John Doss), beloved mother of U S Aung Win+Daw Helen Doss, U Edwin Doss+Daw Nan Mya Thein, U Tin Myo Win+Daw Matilda (in-charge of Laboratory, Mandalay General Hospital), U Raymond Doss-Daw Rita, (U Ceral Doss), teacher Daw Cynthia Doss (BEHS-22) of No. 137, at the former of 28th x 76th Streets in Seiktaramahi Ward of Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, grandmother of eleven and great-grandmother of two, younger sister of Agnes-Mrs. Geti of Yangon, Mrs. Teresa Doss, 87 years, expired peacefully on 20th January 2012 at 4:16 am at her residence.

Funeral service will take place at Kyanigan Christian Cemetery on 22-1-2012 at 3:00 pm.

Sadly missed by family

DISTRICT NEWS

Embankment built in Aunglan

AUNGLAN, 21 Jan—Local people built an embankment along Myakyuntha (strand) in Thayettaw Ward of Aunglan to prevent against bank erosion at the road.

Township Development Affairs Committee spent K 2.5 million and the local people K 800,000 on construction of the embankment. The locals contributed their labour to building the dam.—*Township IPRD*



Free clinic opened in Meiktila



MEIKTILA, 21 Jan—A ceremony to open Myitta Yekyi free clinic was held at Pahtamagyaw monastic education school

in Wunzin Ward of Meiktila on 14 January.

Wellwishers donated medicines and over K 5 million to the funds of the clinic. Chairman of Meiktila Township Election Subcommittee U Than Win, Medical Superintendent Dr Win Htein and Chairman of the Clinic Committee U Kyaw Soe Tun formally opened the clinic.

Any person regardless of national and religion without discrimination of gender and age may receive medical treatment from 10 am to 12 noon daily. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the clinic's fund may dial 25372.

Myanma Alin

Colsaerts, Grace one clear Schwartzel and Goosen lead chasing pack at Fancourt



Nicolas Colsaerts: Finished with an eagle to grab a share of the lead in South Africa.—INTERNET

LONDON, 21 Jan—Nicolas Colsaerts and Branden Grace will head into the final round of the Volvo Golf Champions event with a narrow one-shot lead after a fascinating third day at a wet and windy Fancourt.

After a couple of days of low scoring, the South African lay-out bit back on Saturday with many players, including overnight leader Grace, failing to break par and Spaniard Pablo Martin shooting a 90.

Grace had started the day with a commanding four stroke advantage, but saw his lead disappear following a two-over 75 that included five birdies, but also three bogeys and two doubles.

That allowed Colsaerts - who posted a course record 64 on Thursday - to move level with him at the top of the leaderboard on 10-under-par after sinking a long putt for eagle on 18.

It represented a fine fightback from the 29-year-old Belgian who had crashed out of the lead following a forgettable 76 on Friday.

The duo are one clear of two more South Africans, Charl Schwartzel and Retief Goosen, who posted rounds of 68 and 70 respectively to put themselves right in contention.

Internet

Winners in volleyball, football awarded

KUNGYANGON, 21 Jan—The final matches of the women’s volleyball and men’s football tournaments were held at Aung San Thuriya Hla Thuang Sports Ground in Kungyangon Township of Yangon South District on 6 January.

Among the spectators were Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Lun Thi, Speaker of Yangon Region

Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Region Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 1 and local authorities.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Lun Thi presented first prizes to Yaytein women’s team and Paygon men’s team in volleyball event and first prize to Wetkaik Village football team in men’s football event.

Township IPRD

Tom Hanks’ Web series to stream on Yahoo

NEW YORK, 21 Jan—Tom Hanks’ long gestating Web series is coming to Yahoo.

“Electric City,” an animated futuristic series Hanks has been developing for years, will premiere on Yahoo this spring. The series includes 20 episodes, each three- or four-minutes long.

Yahoo, along with Hanks and production partners Playtone and Reliance Entertainment, are set to formally announce plans for the series Tuesday at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

For Hanks, the release of “Electric City” caps the actor’s efforts to find the right avenue for the project. He first tried to make the series using puppets. He earlier announced it would be released in early 2011.

The series is set in a seemingly peaceful city situated in a post-apocalyptic world. Many of its themes are socially conscious topics relevant to

today, including energy consumption.

“It was always our intent to have this project live and breathe online, and we felt Yahoo would be the perfect home,” said Gary Goetzman, co-founder of Playtone, Hanks’ production company.

Internet



In this 15 Dec, 2011 file photo, actor Tom Hanks attends the premiere of “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York. INTERNET

Sleep solidifies bad feelings

Night of slumber keeps negative emotions fresh

MASSACHUSETTS, 21 Jan—A night of shut-eye sears bad feelings into the brain, while waking hours take the emotional edge off, a new study finds. Though preliminary and somewhat inconsistent with earlier research, the results suggest that staying awake after something awful happens might be a way to blunt the emotional fallout of traumatic experiences, researchers report in the 18 Jan. Journal of Neuroscience.

Sleep is known to lock in memories, particularly emotional ones, but scientists didn’t know whether accompanying feelings are locked in, too — a question that’s particularly relevant to people who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

“If we really want to know if this is

relevant to trauma survivors, then we need to know if sleep not just changes the memory, but if it changes how you feel about it if you experience it again,” says study coauthor Rebecca Spencer of the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

In the study, Spencer and her colleagues showed pictures of neutral scenes, such as a street, or negative scenes, such as an upsetting car crash, to 106 young adults. Participants then rated the emotion inspired by the image on a one-to-nine scale ranging from sad to happy. Afterward, participants were either sent to bed for a full night’s sleep or asked to stay awake for 12 hours. Then the researchers retested the participants by showing some of the same

pictures mixed in with new images.

As expected, the people who slept were better at remembering which images they had seen the day before. But the memory wasn’t the only thing that stuck around: Sleepers held on tighter to their feelings, while the sadness scores given by people who stayed awake tended to be weaker in the second session.

Cognitive neuroscientist Jessica Payne of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana finds the results “tremendously tantalizing,” but cautions that they are too preliminary to be the basis of any recommendations about how much or little to sleep after experiencing trauma. “It is way too soon, way too premature, to talk about treatments for PTSD. We need to have an extensive body of work before we get out there and start saying things like that.”

Payne points out that sleep deprivation leads to increased stress, which can profoundly influence emotions. “In most cases, it’s better to sleep than to not sleep,” she says.

These new results contrast with a study published in December that found that a night of sleep takes the emotional edge off unpleasant experiences — what some scientists call overnight therapy. That study, led by Matthew Walker of the University of California, Berkeley, used different methods and measurements, which may be responsible for the seemingly opposite findings, says neuroscientist Penny Lewis of the University of Manchester in England.

“It seems like the system is more complicated than we had thought,” she says, “and we need to run more experiments to figure out what is going on.”

Internet

No prosecutions over Taleban finger removal

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Denmark launches European Year for Active Ageing



PAGE 7

Hacker group anonymous fights for Internet freedom

PAGE 5

Scientists find new plant in Fiji

PAGE 5



Bayern beaten 3-1 by Gladbach in Bundesliga

PAGE 14

Djokovic overwhelms Mahut to reach pre-quarters

PAGE 14

