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Sunday, 29 January, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union

* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity

* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses meeting on development of Naga region



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses coordination meeting on development of Naga Self-Administered Zone.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—A coordination meeting on development of Naga region took place at the Union government office here at 2pm today with an opening address by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Electric Power No. (1) U Zaw Min, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Industry

U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Kyi Naing, Director of Directorate of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Nyan Tun and departmental heads.

In his opening speech, the Vice-President said that he and his entourage comprising Union Ministers, the Sagaing Region Chief Minister and officials conducted a tour of Naga Self-Administered Zone from 12 to 16 January and fulfilled some of the regional requirements. Today's meeting was held to make a detail discussion about fulfilling the remaining needs for the executive, education, health and transport affairs as well as power supply and regional food sufficiency, he added.

Naga Self-Administered Zone is a region stretching

from the border between Kachin State and Sagaing Region to Tamu border area and it shares border with India. As the sparsely populated region has poor climate condition and transport, townships and sub-townships have been formed to be able to carry out regional administrative matters to a full extent, including promoting of the relations with the other country.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, one-way earth roads were built in the region whose roads were just more than pedestrian lanes in the past. In some places, motorcycles, tiller-Gs and jeeps can go along the earth roads. Hence, it is necessary to implement a three-year project for upgrading the existing roads into tarred, gravel and laterite ones.

(See page 7)

Water supply to be cut off temporarily

YANGON, 28 Jan—The Yangon City Electricity Supply Board will cut off electricity supply temporarily from 9 am to 1 pm on 29 January to clear tree branches catching 33 KV power grid that links Nyaungnabin water refinery of city water supply project (Ngamoeyeik) and Hlawga

sub-power station.

The Yangon City Development Affairs Committee announced that there will be temporary water cutoff in Aung Mingala bus terminal, and North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit (East, South and North), Thakayta and Dawbon townships consuming water from Nyaungnabin water refinery from 9 am to 6 pm on 29 January, giving advice to fetch water in advance.

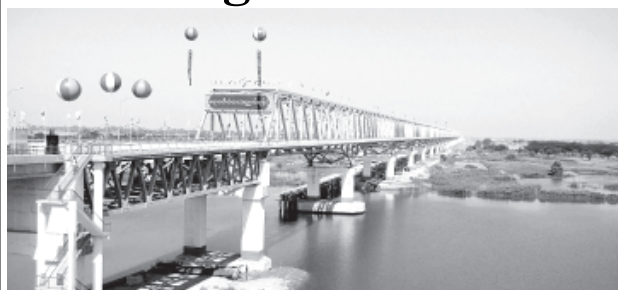
MNA

Zabuthiri Stadium to complete in Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu visited the construction site of Zabuthiri Stadium which has a seating capacity of 30,000 in Zabuthiri Township yesterday.

During the visit, he inspected construction sites and a swimming pool. The stadium is expected to complete in December.— MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) creates huge benefits



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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 29 January, 2012

Build a beautiful world with a sense of philanthropy

The philanthropic spirit is a phenomenon that serves common interest. It is a source of prosperity for human society. Only when any person is imbued with the noble spirit, can he engage in charitable works using money or labour.

Nowadays, the world is festooned with the symbols of philanthropic activities for human beings to enjoy prosperity and to be free from all forms of danger.

Wealthy countries used to provide poor countries or developing countries with humanitarian aids. It is a package of measures that are flourishing among countries, organizations and individuals.

Myanmar embarked on a series of philanthropic activities which call for money or labour. And such highly motivated tasks can be carried out individually or groups.

The tasks include donating cash and kind to homes for the aged, monastic education schools, border areas and national races development schools and Parahita schools as well as blood donation, charity and welfare services, collective provision of sanitation and donation.

Donors of pagodas, monasteries and public rest houses, schools, roads and bridges, hospitals and clinics as well as water tanks, lakes are forces to be reckoned with in philanthropic activities.

Accordingly, everyone should cultivate a sense of philanthropy so that they can fully serve common interest. With this, it is sure that the world will be affluent and prosperous.

Thuta Ahman Library put into service in TadaU Township

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—To hail the 65th Anniversary Union Day, the opening ceremony of Thuta Ahman Library in TadaU Township in Mandalay Region was held at the latter's library, with an address by TadaU Township Administrator U Zaw Min. Daw Wai Wai Phyo, Staff Officer from Kyause District Information and Public Relations Department explained durability and development of the library.

Afterwards, Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than, Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Than of Kyaukse District and the staff officer of the Kyaukse District Information and Public Relations Department cut the ribbon to open the ceremony. Officials accepted furniture and books donated by wellwishers including Lt-Gen Tin Aye (Rtd)-Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn and family and Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than.

The 23-foot by 14-foot building was constructed in 2010-2011 fiscal year at a cost of K 1 million by the State and K 2.3 million by the wellwishers.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Yenwe Chaung Bridge over Yenwe Creek opens in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—A bridge over the Yenwe Creek in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago District was opened today to help easy access between the eastern and western parts of Bago Region and move goods and transportation services as it connects the road network of the country.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win, Bago Region Transportation Minister U Tun Wai, Bago Region Social Affairs Minister Dr. Kyaw Oo and Managing Director of the Public Works U Kyaw Linn formally opened the bridge and Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint unveiled the signboard of the bridge.

The bridge would benefit the local people, said Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win in his address at the opening ceremony of the bridge.

He also urged the local people to take part in conservation of the bridge for its durability.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint called on trucks to

carry designated weight as the roads across the country are designed in accordance with the loads carried by trucks.

A truck is allowed to carry 10 tons of load in accordance with the ASEAN Standard.

The bridge is one of the ten bridges which are 180 ft and above long inaugurated during the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and has become the fourth in Bago Region.

It would also help economic, social, education, health and administration of the region.

The clearance of the bridge is 105 ft wide and 10 ft high. A conduit pipe which is 20 foot in circumference is constructed on the approach road to let the overflow water of the creek pass through it when the creek is in flood.

Work on constructed of the bridge started on 12, March, 2011, by the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction.

MNA

Course on drawing and implementation of plans (official level) concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Course No.1/2012 for drawing and implementation of plans (official level) was concluded at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here this morning.

Delivering a speech at the course conclusion ceremony, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic

Development U Tin Naing Thein stressed the need for including the objectives of regions and states and the requirements of organizations and the people as well as international situations in drawing plans.

The course lasted from 21 to 28 January and it was attended by 66 officers.—MNA

Officials discuss holding Conference on development policy options for education, Health



Meeting on holding Conference on Development Policy Options with Special Reference to Education and Health in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—A coordination meeting on holding Conference on Development Policy Options with Special Reference to Education and Health in Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Education here yesterday.

At the meeting, Secretary of the leading committee for holding the conference Director-General of the Education,

Planning and Training Department U Bo Win discussed tasks for sub-committees and Senior Policy Adviser Mr Shafique Rahman of UNDP Myanmar and U Khaing Tun of National Consultant discussed tasks for holding the conference with participants of the meeting.

MNA

Zaw Zaw Latt clinches title in Road to Victory



Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), patron of Myanmar Golf Federation, awards Zaw Zaw Latt.
MGF

YANGON, 28 Jan—The fourth round of the Road to Victory golf tournament, a

qualifier for the Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012, continued at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon Township yesterday

morning.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Vice-President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Tint Oo presented prizes to daily best scorers.

Vice-President of MGF U Zaw Min gave the second prize to Thein Zaw Myint who fired 288 strokes and Chairman of Myanmar Senior PGA U San Naung, the joint second prize to Nay Bala Win Myint with 288.

Patron of MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented a cheque worth K 2 million to Zaw Zaw Latt who stood first with a six-under-par 282.

Later, those present were served with dinner.—MNA

Romney, Gingrich face off in final debate before Florida primary

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—Republican presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich exchanged fires Thursday night in the final debate before the Florida primary. The former Massachusetts governor and the former House speaker clashed with each other on the issue of illegal immigration immediately after the debate, which also pitted Texas congressman Ron Paul and former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, kicked off on the campus of the University of North Florida.

Commenting on Romney's recent remarks that illegal immigrants could be pressured into practicing "self-deportation," Gingrich said he thinks the idea is unworkable when it comes to older illegal immigrants who have been here for a long time. Romney touted the idea of "self-deportation" in Monday

night's debate, arguing that illegal immigration can be curbed by denying public benefits to them.

The former governor also called Gingrich's allegations that he is anti-immigrant "inexcusable."

"The idea that I'm anti-immigrant is repulsive," he said. "It's simply the kind of over-the-top rhetoric that's characterized American politics too long."

Illegal immigration is a hot issue in Florida, where people of Hispanic origin make up 22.5 percent of the state's population, compared with 16.3 percent of the US population, according to census data from 2010.

The voting bloc is critical for a candidate not only in the primaries but also in general elections.

During the debate, Romney and Gingrich also attacked each other over their respective connections to

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the two mortgage giants blamed to be responsible for the collapse of the housing



Republican presidential candidate, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich arrives at a Tea Party Rally in Mount Dora, Florida, USA.—INTERNET

market. This is particularly an issue in Florida, which has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation.

"Speaker Gingrich was hired by Freddie Mac to promote them, to influence other people throughout Washington," Romney said.

In response, Gingrich said Romney was covering up his own investments in the two mortgage giants. "We discovered to our shock that Governor Romney owns shares of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac," he said.

Xinhua

US seeks greater military ties with China

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—The US commander handling Asia on Friday called for greater military relations with China, saying that dialogue between the Pacific powers has not advanced beyond broad strategic issues.

Admiral Robert Willard, head of the US Pacific Command, voiced satisfaction that military dialogue has continued despite frequent storms in US-China relations but said that talks generally focused on comparing strategic views.

"Advancing the military relationship in other ways - at the operational and tactical levels, getting our two militaries more acquainted with one another through operations or through counterpart visits - has not advanced," Willard told a news conference in Washington. "I'm gratified that at the strategic level the dialogue has persisted. I'm not satisfied that the military relationship is where it needs to be," he said. He said that the two countries had a "difference in philosophy" on what military-to-military relations entailed and acknowledged that there were problems with trust, including "what China views as impediments" in ties.



Members of a Chinese Navy honour guard attend a welcoming ceremony at Bayi Building in Beijing. INTERNET

China has repeatedly cancelled planned military exchanges with the United States to protest US arms sales to Taiwan. China claims the self-governing island, while US domestic law requires providing Taiwan means of self-defence. China lodged a formal protest in September when President Barack Obama's administration approved a \$5.85 billion upgrade of Taiwan's aging fighter-jets. But US officials said that there was minimal impact on military ties, amid criticism by some Taiwan supporters that Obama did not authorise fresh planes. US officials have repeatedly urged greater defence cooperation with China as a way to avoid unintended incidents as Beijing is rapidly expanding its military and US forces operate throughout Asia.

Internet

Gunmen kill 15 businessmen in northern state of Nigeria

LAGOS, 28 Jan—Gunmen killed 15 businessmen in Nigeria's northern state of Zamfara, local police reported on Friday.

The businessmen were slain late Thursday in their village, police said in a report monitored here. The attack was the latest in a series since the beginning of the year. In the culmination of violence mostly in northern Nigeria, curfew was imposed in several states.

Xinhua

Two killed in shooting incident in N Philippines

MANILA, 28 Jan—Two people, including a policeman, were killed in a shooting incident Friday night in western Philippine Province of Palawan, police said Saturday.

Two suspects identified as Ismael Jose Tanpua and Norberto Castillo shot police officer Joemar Mantele of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group at around 9:00 pm in Liminangcong village in Taytay town, police spokesman Agrimero Cruz Jr said.

But Mantele managed to retaliate and hit Castillo.

"However, Mantele died due to multiple gunshot wounds while Norberto Castillo also died thereafter," Cruz said, adding that manhunt operation had been launched for the possible arrest of Tanpua. Police are investigating the cause of the shooting incident.

Xinhua



Afghan policemen investigate the scene of the attack in Lashkar Gah on Thursday. At least three people were killed and 30 injured in an explosion near the governor's compound in the city of Lashkar Gah in southern Afghanistan, authorities said. INTERNET

Iran seeks to halt oil exports to EU: lawmaker

TEHERAN, 28 Jan—Iran's Majlis (Parliament) is to discuss a bill on Sunday that seeks to halt its oil exports to the European Union (EU), local satellite channel Press TV reported on Friday.

Iranian lawmakers will discuss the bill that calls for a ban of oil exports to the EU as early as next week, Hossein Ebrahimi, deputy head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, was quoted by Press TV as saying.

In reference to the EU's decision to embargo Iran's oil, the lawmaker called the new sanction measures a

"psychological war," the implementation of which remains uncertain.

Nasser Soudani, a member of Iran's Majlis Energy Commission, said Wednesday that in a preemptive move, the Iranian parliament is mulling over a plan to halt its oil exports to the EU member states.

"Majlis representatives are seeking to approve a plan, according to which all European countries that have imposed sanctions against Iran will not be able to buy even one drop of oil from Iran," Soudani said.

The foreign ministers of

the EU countries on Monday decided to ban Iran's oil and oil products, causing investors to worry about global oil supplies as Tehran has threatened in retaliation to close the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane for the trade.

Major EU importers of Iran's oil, such as Greece, Italy and Spain, have until July 1, when the embargo comes into force, to find alternative oil suppliers. Ali-Abar Velayati, top advisor to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned Thursday that "no one can sell oil if Iran cannot."—Internet

Five injured in bomb blast in Karachi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 Jan—At least five people were injured when some unidentified militants hurled hand grenades in a commercial area in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Saturday, local Urdu TV Express reported.

Xinhua

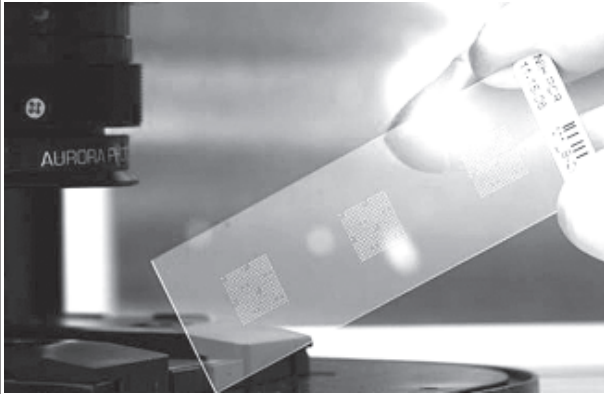


Iraqi security forces inspect the scene of a motorcycle bomb blast in the city of Kirkuk on Thursday. INTERNET

Lee Hsien Loong (R), prime minister of Singapore, attends the session "The Outlook for East Asia" at the Annual Meeting 2012 of the World Economic Forum at the congress centre in Davos, Switzerland, on 26 January, 2012. The Meeting this year, which take place from 25 to 29 Jan, convene under the theme, The Great Transformation: Shaping New Models. XINHUA



New biochip measures glucose level from saliva



WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—For millions of diabetics around the world, drawing blood is the most prevalent method of checking glucose levels, an invasive and rather painful method. Now Brown University researchers are working on a new sensor that can check blood sugar levels by measuring glucose concentrations in saliva instead.

The technique takes advantage of a convergence of nanotechnology and surface plasmonics, which explores the interaction of electrons and photons (light atoms), the journal *Nano Letters* reports.

Brown engineers etched thousands of plasmonic interferometers onto a fingernail-size biochip and measured the concentration of glucose molecules in water on the chip, according to a Brown statement.

Interferometers are instruments that measure biomolecular interactions, wavelengths, very small distances and thicknesses in various scientific disciplines.

“This is proof of concept that plasmonic interferometers can be used to detect molecules in low concentrations, using a footprint that is 10 times smaller than a human hair,” said Domenico Pacifici, assistant professor of engineering at Brown, who led the study.

Internet

Simple blood test may provide early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—Scientists have discovered a new promising way to diagnose Alzheimer’s disease more accurately by analysing white blood cells.

Their technique, which is non-invasive, fast and low-cost, measures how much infrared radiation is either emitted or absorbed by white blood cells.

Because of its high sensitivity, this method is able

to distinguish between the different clinical stages of disease development thereby allowing reliable diagnosis of both mild and moderate stages of Alzheimer’s.

Alzheimer’s disease is the most common form of adult onset dementia and is characterized by the degeneration of the nervous system. In particular, as the disease progresses, the amount of amyloid-beta



Scientists have discovered a new promising way to diagnose Alzheimer’s disease more accurately by analysing white blood cells.—INTERNET

peptide in the body rises. At present, the most reliable and sensitive diagnostic techniques are invasive, e.g. require analysis of cerebrospinal fluid (the liquid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord).

However, white blood cells (or mononuclear leukocytes) are also thought to carry amyloid-beta peptide in Alzheimer patients.

Spanish researchers, led by Pedro Carmona from the Instituto de Estructura de la Materia in Madrid, used two-dimensional infrared spectroscopy to measure and compare the infrared radiation emitted or absorbed by white blood cells of healthy controls, versus those of patients with mild, moderate and severe Alzheimer’s disease.

Internet



New technique could unravel malaria’s genetic secrets

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—Researchers have devised a technique to overcome the genetic oddity of parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*,



Researchers have devised a technique to overcome the genetic oddity of parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*, which is the major cause of malaria in humans.—INTERNET

which is the major cause of malaria in humans. This new approach has led researchers at National Jewish Health and Yale University School of Medicine to discover a new gene involved in lipid synthesis, and opens the door to further genetic discovery for the entire organism.

“The malarial genome has been a black box, so that we can learn what genes in the most lethal human parasite actually do,” said Dennis Voelker, PhD, Professor of Medicine at National Jewish Health and senior author on the paper.

“This could prove tremendously valuable in the fight against a disease that has become increasingly drug-resistant.”—Internet

OECD urges foreign investors to boost employment in MENA region

PARIS, 28 Jan—The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Friday called on foreign investors in North Africa and the Middle East (MENA) to invest in sectors likely to boost employment in these countries.

“Despite a decade-long surge in foreign direct investment (FDI) to North Africa and the Middle East (MENA), the region continues to suffer high and persistent unemployment, particularly among the young whose jobless rates exceed 40 percent in some countries,” a new joint study by the OECD and World Economic Forum indicated.

“Foreign investment in North Africa and the Middle East needs to diversify away from the oil and gas industries and be encouraged to focus on areas which have a greater

impact on boosting jobs,” the report said, citing labor-intensive sectors of manufacturing, tourism and renewable energies.

“Approximately two thirds of FDI into MENA is to the hydrocarbon sector. But the sector is highly capital intensive and generates few jobs in proportion to its levels of investment,” it said.

The report insisted that the “FDI into green field sites can create more employment than mergers and acquisitions of domestic firms by foreign companies.”

The study identified an underdeveloped private sector and a widespread mismatch between workforce skills and business needs among the causes of the weak impact of FDI on job creation.

Xinhua



In this undated photo, Iranian shopkeeper Hamid Reza Delband displays a doll at his toy shop, in Teheran, Iran. Police have closed down dozens of toy shop for selling Barbie dolls, part of a decades-long crackdown on signs of Western culture in Iran, the semi official Mehr news agency reported on 20 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

US stocks mixed on US GDP, Greek debt talks

NEW YORK, 28 Jan—The US stocks closed mixed on Friday as US economic growth in the last quarter last year missed the expectation, while the near-conclusion Greek debt talks inject optimism.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 74.17 points, or 0.58 percent, to 12,660.46. The Standard & Poor’s 500 was down 2.11 points, or 0.16 percent, to 1,316.32. The Nasdaq Composite Index gained 11.27 points, or 0.40 percent, to 2,816.55.

For the week, the Dow underwent its first weekly loss this year, losing nearly 0.5 percent, while both S&P 500 and Nasdaq index



gained. The US Commerce Department reported that the gross domestic product grew 2.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011, which missed expectations of 3 percent growth. However, it was still the fastest pace since 2010.

Separately, the final Jan. reading of the University of Michigan/Thomson

Reuters’ consumer sentiment reached to 11-month high of 75.0, climbing from a preliminary reading of 74.0.

In Europe, Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos said that the country is just “one step away” from a debt swap deal with its private creditors.

Xinhua

Canada’s deficit shrinking faster than expected

OTTAWA, 28 Jan—The Canadian government reported on Friday that the national budget deficit stood at 17.3 billion Canadian dollars in the first eight months of this fiscal year, about 1 billion less than expected.

Last year, the deficit was 26 billion at the same point in the fiscal year.

Last fall, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty predicted a budget deficit of 32 billion in 2011-2012, but Friday’s report shows the federal deficit may come in at less than 30 billion dollars.

In a commentary sent out by the Toronto Dominion Bank, economist Sonya

Gulati predicted the deficit will be about 27 billion to 28 billion dollars. The deficit to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio will end the year at about 1.7 percent. At the peak of the recession in 2009, the ratio was 3.6 percent. In November, spending fell by 2.5 billion dollars due to the ending of infrastructure spending geared to stimulating economic growth.

As of the end of Nov. 2011, federal revenues stood at 153.8 billion dollars while expenses were 170.1 billion dollars.

In recent weeks, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his senior ministers have promised major spending cuts that are expected to be announced in about a month. A committee of key cabinet ministers, working with an outside business consultant, has been reviewing federal programs to look for ways to save money.

As well, staffing in federal departments is expected to be cut by five to ten percent.—Xinhua



Oldest dinosaur nest discovered

SYDNEY, 28 Jan—A 190 million-year-old dinosaur nesting site—the oldest ever - has been unearthed in South Africa.

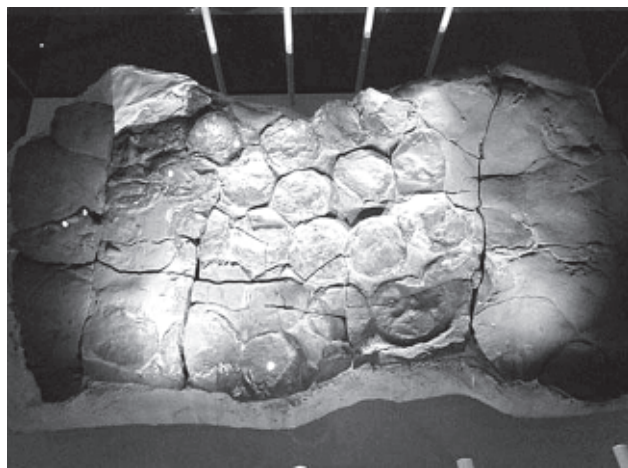
The discovery of the prosauropod dinosaur *Massospondylus* has revealed significant clues about the evolution of complex reproductive behaviour in early dinosaurs.

Led by University of Toronto (Mississauga) palaeontologist Robert Reisz, with co-author Eric Roberts from James Cook University and a group of international researchers, the study describes clutches of eggs, many with embryos, as well as tiny dinosaur footprints.

According to the authors, the newly-unearthed dinosaur nesting ground is over 100 million years older than previously known nesting sites.

Roberts, senior lecturer of geology, said the sediments were an incredible source of information about the life and times of early dinosaurs.

“Clues recorded in the rock, such as the tracks of the



hatchling dinosaurs, traces of ancient ripples and evidence desiccation cracks all suggest that these animals were nesting in a dynamic shoreline environment with fluctuating climate conditions,” he said.

Roberts said over 10 nests had been discovered at several levels at the site, each with up to 34 round eggs in tightly clustered clutches.—*Internet*

Extraterrestrial life possible but not like that on Earth

JOHANNESBURG, 28 Jan—An astronomer has said that while we could find life outside of Earth, it is unlikely that it would be intelligent or multi-cellular.

Dr Robin Catchpole, who teaches at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, and was a senior astronomer at the Royal Observatory, said that over the past few decades scientists have slowly become more open to the idea of life existing elsewhere in the universe too.

“In our solar system I think there’s every chance that we will find things like bacteria - life at that level somewhere else. Multi-celled life, I think, is unlikely,” *News 24* quoted Catchpole as saying.

“There’s almost a sort of philosophical point that we



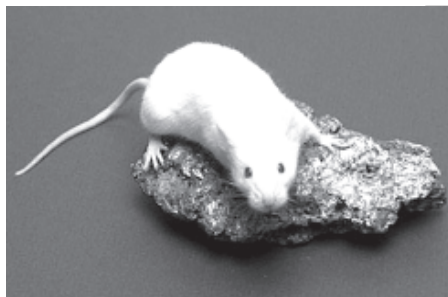
An astronomer has said that while we could find life outside of Earth, it is unlikely that it would be intelligent or multi-cellular.
INTERNET

don’t see ourselves as unique in the universe perhaps in the way that we used to,” he said.

“In the last 100 years since Darwin really we’ve seen that we are related to all the other living things. So we would expect not only to find ourselves, of course, but we would expect and anticipate finding life elsewhere,” he added. Technology has allowed astronomers to explore more of the universe and radio telescopes, in particular, have assisted in expanding knowledge.

“With radio telescopes we’ve discovered evidence of molecules - the basic precursors of life - all over the place in interstellar clouds. The more we look, the more we find,” said Catchpole. In the past, it was thought that planets around stars were a rare phenomenon, but advances in astronomy have shown that not only are planets common, they are even present around binary stars.—*Internet*

Male mice sing songs to woo females



Male house mice produce melodious songs to attract potential mates.
INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—Researchers have found that male house mice produce melodious songs to attract potential mates.

The researchers at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna found

through spectrographic analyses of the vocalizations of wild house mice, that the songs of male mice contain signals of individuality and kinship. Since the melodies are in the ultra-sonic range human ears cannot detect

them.

It has been known for some time that house mice (*Mus musculus*) produce ultrasonic vocalizations (USVs) during courtship but it has generally been assumed that these are no more than squeaks. However, recent spectrographic analyses have revealed that USVs are complex and show features of songs.

Although the vocalizations are inaudible to human ears, when playbacks of recorded songs are slowed down their

similarity to bird song becomes striking. Frauke Hoffmann, Kerstin Musolf and Dustin Penn of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna’s Konrad Lorenz Institute of Ethology aimed to learn what type of information is contained in males’ songs for the discerning ear of the female mouse to detect.

Internet



Google+ opens up to teenagers

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Jan—Google on Thursday opened up Google+ to teenagers, just days after loosening the rules about using real names on the social network.

The age limit had previously been 18, but Google vice president for product management Bradley Horowitz announced on Google+ that users could now be as young as 13. Facebook, the world’s leading social network with more than 800 million members, also has an age limit of 13.

Horowitz said Google+ is implementing several safety features aimed specifically at teens.

“With Google+, we want to help teens build meaningful connections online,” he said in a post on his Google+ account. “We also want to provide features that foster safety alongside self-expression.”

Google+ organizes online connections into circles such as friends and family and one of the safety features is a reminder to a teen whether they really want share a post publicly outside of their circles.

Horowitz said Google+ is also giving teen users “control



Google+ opens up to teenagers

over who can contact them online. “By default, only those in teens’ circles can say hello, and blocking someone is always just a click or two away,” he said. “Between strong user protections and teen-focused content, it’s our hope that young adults will feel at home (and have some fun) on Google+,” Horowitz said.—*Internet*



Coca-Cola’s Twitter brand page

Twitter to get Facebook-style brand pages on 1st February

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Jan—Microblogging site Twitter will begin to roll out “Facebook-style” enhanced brand pages, allowing users to shop and play games, from 1 February according to a 26 January report by Businessinsider.

Twitter quietly launched enhanced profile pages for brands in December 2011; these pages, which were limited to a few companies such as HP and Coca-Cola, gave the brands ‘flashier’ pages that were more in line with their brand image — for example Coca-Cola’s page is red.

However according to Businessinsider, these enhanced pages will, from 1 February, take a turn that it is more in the direction of Facebook’s model, enabling brands to build platforms on their pages that, “could include iFrame environments” (a more flexible style of computer programming) which would enable users to play games and shop on a brand’s site without leaving Twitter.

Business Insider simply attributes these rumors to a source “... who received a briefing on the topic from a senior Twitter executive.” At the time of writing (11am GMT 27 January), no mention of the proposed changes has appeared on Twitter’s official blog.—*Internet*

Soon, electric car that folds itself



WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—A tiny, revolutionary, fold-up car designed in Spain’s Basque country, which is said to be the answer to urban stress and pollution, was unveiled on Tuesday before it hits European cities in 2013. The

Soon, electric car that folds itself

“Hiriko,” the Basque word for “urban,” is an electric two-seater with no doors whose motor is located in the wheels and which folds up like a child’s collapsible stroller for easy parking.

Dreamed up by Boston’s MIT-Media lab, the concept was developed by a consortium of seven small Basque firms under the name Hiriko Driving Mobility, with a prototype unveiled by European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. Demonstrating for journalists, Barroso clambered

in through the fold-up front windscreen of the 5-foot-long (1.5-metre) car. “European ideas usually are developed in the United States. This time an American idea is being made in Europe,” *Discovery News* quoted Gorka Espiau, consortium spokesman as telling agencies.

Its makers are in talks with a number of European cities to assemble the tiny cars that can run 75 miles (120 kilometres) without a recharge and whose speed is electronically set to respect city limits.—*Internet*



People wait to lay flowers at the Monument to the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad in St Petersburg, Russia, on 27 Jan, 2012, marking the end of the Siege of Leningrad. The battle, also known as the Leningrad Blockade, was one of the longest and most destructive sieges in history and the most costly in terms of casualties.—XINHUA

French breast implant company boss charged

MARSEILLE, 28 Jan—French officials on Friday charged Jean-Claude Mas, the founder of the PIP breast implant company that sparked a global health scare, with “involuntary injury”, his lawyer said. Mas, arrested on Thursday in a manslaughter probe into the company from whom more than 400,000 women worldwide are believed to have received substandard implants, was released on bail of 100,000 euros, lawyer Yves Haddad said.

On Thursday, Mas answered “hundreds of questions,” Haddad said, adding the 72-year-old was “very cooperative” and outlined the responsibilities of all company officials and his links with suppliers.

Prosecutors said police also arrested Claude Couty, another former executive at the now-defunct PIP, in southern France. Fears over PIP implants, which were found to contain industrial-grade silicone gel, spread globally late last year after French health authorities advised 30,000 women to have theirs removed because of an increased risk of rupture. Between 400,000 and 500,000 women in 65 countries are believed to have received implants from PIP, once the world’s third-largest silicone implant producers.

A number of countries, including Germany and the Czech Republic, have followed France in recommending the prostheses be removed as a precaution but Britain has said it will not follow suit. Thirteen countries in Europe and Latin America have also urged women to have a check-up.—Internet



Jean-Claude Mas, President of Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), holding a breast implant in La Seyne-sur-Mer, southern France.—INTERNET

Indonesian Trade Ministry urges staff to improve English

INDONESIA, 28 Jan—Indonesia’s Trade Ministry wants its employees to improve their English, so they can better communicate with Indonesia’s trading partners.

Its target is for a third of the ministry’s 3,000 staff to get Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test scores above 600, by end of the year.

The maximum score for the paper-based TOEFL test is 677.

Mr Gita Wirjawan, who became Trade Minister last October, proposed the initiative.

He had implemented a similar policy at the Investment Coordinating Board, or BKPM, which he also heads. He said more than half its staff scored above 600 in the TOEFL test, after taking classes for just over a year.

“I’ve been involved in teaching a lot of

my staff at BKPM and I get really disturbed when people think this has nothing to do with performance,” he said.

“This has everything to do with performance.

Our ability to negotiate with anybody around the world; our ability to be able to trade in a balance manner has to do with our ability to speak; our ability to communicate.

“We have been able to do something at BKPM whereby we have been able to produce about 258 employees out of the 580 to have a TOEFL score of above 600 in just a matter of 12 to 14 months.

“When I joined BKPM we had nobody who had a score of 500 or above in TOEFL.”

The Trade Ministry will try to replicate that success, and has set aside US\$660,000 for training.

Internet

Russian TV channel to broadcast Assange’s talk show

LONDON, 28 Jan—A Russian state-owned television channel has brought the broadcasting rights for Wikileaks founder Julian Assange’s upcoming talk show.

Russia Today, the Kremlin’s English-language propaganda arm, announced it had won exclusive first broadcast rights for the show, titled The World Tomorrow, and was due to begin airing

the show in March.

“Our viewers are open to the discussions that will be presented through Julian’s show on our channel,” The Guardian quoted the channel’s editor-in-chief, Kremlin loyalist Margarita Simonyan, as saying.

The channel, like the Russian government, has been very supportive of Assange since his arrest for allegedly sexually assaulting

two women in Sweden in August 2010.

According to the paper, various interviews for the talk show would be filmed at Ellingham Hall in Norfolk, where Assange has been under house arrest as he awaits a UK Supreme Court hearing on his extradition to Sweden.

The names of the guests have not yet been disclosed. Assange recently

Tired of publicity, says Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told her State Department employees that she was ready to be out of the public eye.

“I think after 20 years - and it will be 20 years - of being on the high wire of American politics and all of the challenges that come with that, it would be probably a good idea to just find out how tired I am,” the Politico newspaper quoted her as

saying.

Clinton, who in the past ran in senatorial and presidential elections, said this time she finds it “a little odd to be totally out of an election season.”

The Democratic Party politician also said she did not even watch any of the Republican presidential hopefuls’ debates this year.

She stated earlier that she would not serve in President Barack Obama’s second term,



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

if he is re-elected, and wants to focus on projects dealing with women and children rights protection.—Internet

Floating US base to be deployed in Mideast

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—The Pentagon is converting an aging warship into a floating base for use by US commandos operating in the Middle East, according to a senior Defence Department official.

The USS Ponce, an amphibious transport docking ship, will be retrofitted into a staging base for Navy special operations forces. The Washington Post first reported the story. “The warship will be manned by a combined crew of Navy officers and enlisted sailors

and Military Sealift Command government civilian mariners,” said a statement from Lt Commander Mike Kafka at US Fleet Forces. The deployment will fulfill a longstanding request of the US Central Command, the statement said.

One of the highlights in Pentagon budget documents released on Thursday was continued funding for “a new afloat forward staging base that can be dedicated to support missions in areas where ground based access is not available, such as counter-mine operations.”

Iran has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial shipping lane for Persian Gulf oil. Mines would be one way for Iran to block the waterway.—Internet

FBI software to scan tweets to predict crimes

LONDON, 28 Jan—American intelligence agency FBI is reportedly developing new software to scan social networks Twitter and Facebook to look for emerging threats and predict crimes.

The FBI has asked technology firms to create software that can effectively scan the websites for words, phrases and other suspected behaviour, the Telegraph reported.

It will also be able to translate from foreign languages as well as detect patterns of users misleading the police. Campaigners of free speech have now raised concerns. Jennifer Lynch, from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said it could erode the sense of freedom provided by the internet.

“These tools that mine open source data, and presumably store it for a very

long time, do away with that kind of privacy. I worry about the effect of that on free speech in the US,” she said.

Privacy International said the move risked placing large numbers of people under surveillance. Police in Britain already use Facebook routinely to ascertain the whereabouts of criminals.

Internet

Four men enjoy the world’s tallest ride in Guangzhou, South China’s Guangdong Province Jan 18, 2012. The ride is 484 metres high with a 30 metre drop at 80 km per hour.

INTERNET



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses meeting ...

(from page 1)

As the region still is in food insufficiency, it is required to provide paddy strains suitable for the region and crop strains and cultivation methods for growing perennial crops in addition to currently grown Phala and rubber for sustainable economy of the local people.

The region has 100 inches of annual rainfall and it rains even in summer. Therefore, survey is to be conducted for generating hydro-electricity on a manageable scale in groups of villages.

The Vice-President went on to say that for ensuring food sufficiency and development of education, health and socio-economy of the Naga national people, a team of departmental personnel led by the Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs will make a field trip to the region beginning 3 February. The team has to learn how the State can render assistance for the long-term socio-economic development of the Naga region.

The meeting will discuss preparations to be made by respective ministries so as to further promote the present status in which the local nationals themselves have been in a position to participate in regional executive affairs after the formation of Naga Self-Administered Zone, said the Vice-President.

Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay reported on progress of transport, health, education, water for agricultural purpose, communication and power supply for devel-

opment of Naga Self-Administered Zone.

Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Kyi Naing submitted the reports on the study plan to organize officials of the ministries concerned for development of Naga Self-Administered Zone.

The Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials discussed sector-wise programmes for regional development.

After fulfilling the requirements, the Vice-President gave concluding remarks. He stressed the need to form sector-wise experts and experts in the departmental team that will make a trip to townships of Naga Self-Adminis-

Director Maj-Gen Nyan Tun of Directorate of Military Engineers makes clarification.

MNA



Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin makes clarification.

MNA



tered Zone on 3 February. He noted that it is necessary to consider transport of machinery as the Naga region is poor in transport.

He called for focusing on development of the Naga region, adding that these tasks are to be undertaken in line with eight points of rural development and poverty alleviation scheme as a national level plan. In conclusion, he said that only when the region is provided with financial assistance apart from fulfilling requirements, will it achieve actual development, and thus all tasks are to be carried out systematically for securing accomplishments.

Later, the meeting came to an end.—MNA

Reuters interviews Union Energy Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—To hunt news about ongoing large projects, works and plans for energy development of the Ministry of Energy, a media team led by Chief of Southeast Asia Bureau of the Reuters News Agency Mr Jason Szep requested an interview to Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay at the ministry yesterday morning. The team was received by the

Union Minister, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and Director-General U Htin Aung.

In the exclusive interview, the Reuters asked about ongoing, and proposed massive projects in Myanmar, production capacity of oil and gas, measures for boosted production, measures of the ministry for domestic oil sufficiency, list of multinational corporations

engaging in inland and offshore oil production and their works, interests of companies from western countries including America to invest in Myanmar's oil industry, facts about Myanmar-China oil and gas pipeline project and accusations of some organizations, role of the Energy Ministry in establishing special economic zone, answered by the Union Minister in detail.—MNA

Second Seminar on International Gastro-Intestinal and Liver commences

YANGON, 28 Jan—The opening of the Second Seminar on International Gastro-Intestinal and Liver of Gastro-Intestinal and Liver Society of Myanmar Medical Association was held at the Traders Hotel, here, this morning, with an address by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe.

Chairman of MMA Prof Dr U Kyaw Myint Naing made a speech. Chairperson of the society Prof Dr Daw Than Than Swe extended greetings. Prof Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin discussed role of developing medical science and doctors.

After the opening cer-

emony, the Region Chief Minister and the chairman of the MMA formally opened the pharmaceuticals and medical equipment booth and visited there. The seminar will last up to 29 January.

The Region Chief Minister attended the ceremony to open the Dhammayon of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. The authorities concerned, departmental officials and wellwisher family opened the Dhammayon, and the Region Chief Minister

unveiled the plaque of the Dhammayon.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamo Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Vhivamsa and administered the Five Precepts.

After the ceremony, the Region Chief Minister and party offered alms and meals to members of the Sangha.

The 80x60x14 feet Dhammayon together with 300 feet long and 80 feet wide concrete road was built at a cost of K 100 million.

MNA



RURAL BRIDGE OPENED IN YWATHITGON VILLAGE IN KANGYIDAUNT TOWNSHIP:

A rural bridge leading to the entrance to Ywathitgon was opened on 22 January morning with a speech of Kangyidaunt Township Administrator U Myint Sein. The bridge which was built at a cost of 2.55 million donated by wellwishers was formally opened by the Township Administrator and Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representative U Chit Lwin and wellwishers. Township IPRD

Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association meets

YANGON, 28 Jan—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin addressed the plenary meeting of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association 2012 at Nursing University (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning.

The deputy minister and party then viewed the documentary photos of the association. Annual general reports and financial statements were presented at the meeting. The meeting continues tomorrow.—MNA

Public warned not to use oral-promise payment in trading

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—The government is striving its utmost for national development and thus has reduced taxes and amended, canceled and relaxed some laws to ensure smooth flow of commodities, investments and businesses.

Oral-promise payment is reported to be used in trading of gold, beans and pulses, corn, paddy, rice, salt and so on instead of cash-down payment. The same practice is reported be usual among some members of Gold Entrepreneurs Asso-

ciation on Shwebontha Street.

Such trading can affect quality preservation of items sold and cause breach of promises and so many social problems, with probability of leading to crimes and posing obstacles for commodity flow, stability of commodity prices and control of cash values of the State.

So, it is warned to the public not to use such payment as it may harm the interests of the people in case of consequential problems and urged to use cash-down payment.—MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) creates huge benefits



President U Thein Sein at the opening ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) amidst warmly waving hands of locals.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) was constructed in a short time, taking only 1 year 10 months and 25 days. Work on construction of the bridge started on 1 January, 2010 and it was commissioned into service on 27 November, 2011.

It is the eighth above-180-ft bridge opened in the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is a rail-cum-motor road bridge. It is of steel truss type and located 8,000 feet above Bo Myat Tun Bridge.

The foundation of the main bridge is made of RC type

bored piles while piers are of RC type and the upper structure steel truss type.

The main bridge is 7402 feet long. The approach road is 1837 feet on Patheingyi bank and 1575 feet on Yangon bank, totaling 3412 feet in length. The approach railroad is 6529 feet on Patheingyi bank and 6614 feet on Yangon bank, totaling 13143 feet in length.

The whole bridge inclusive of main bridge and approach road is 10814 feet long and inclusive of main bridge and approach railroad is 20545 feet long. The two-lane motor

road is 28 feet wide and the railroad is 14 feet wide, flanked by 3-ft wide pedestrian walks. The clearance is 262 feet in width and 57 feet in height. The bridge can withstand 75-ton load per vehicle.

To facilitate smooth transportation for increasing numbers of travellers and commodity flow, Yangon (Hlinethaya)-Patheingyi railroad and Yangon (Hlinethaya)-Zalun-Hinthada railroad were constructed and Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) supports these railroads.

(See page 9)



Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon), the eighth bridge opened in the time of new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo,...

(from page 16)

The Vice-President, wife and party offered alms and meals to members of the Sangha.

Next, the Vice-President and party met local people at the temporary pandal in the precinct of the monastery.

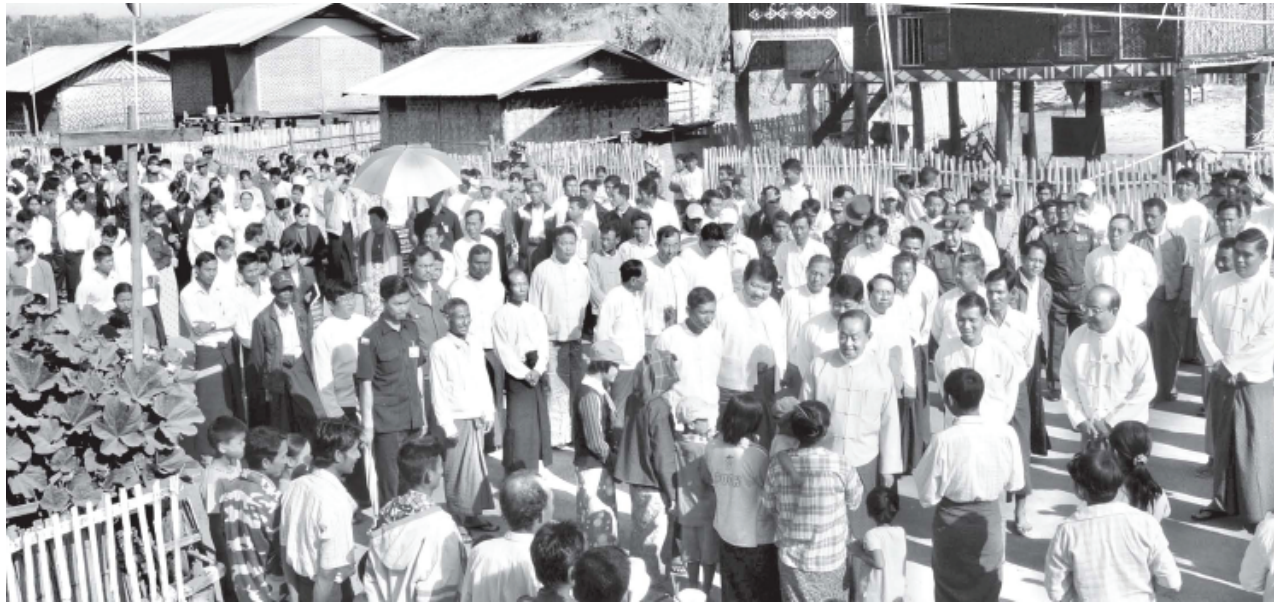
In meeting with the local people, the Vice-President explained that the State initiated undertakings of rural social economic development which is one of eight tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation. He urged all to work in concert to enhance development of the village and improvement of living standard of the local people.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Peasant, Worker and Youth Affairs Committee U Tin Htut, Union Minister U Tint Hsan and Chairman of the foundation U Tha Htay extended greetings.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted the local people.



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo visits shops at open air market of Aungthiri Village.
MNA



Aungthiri Village, built by Aungthiri Foundation, is located beside Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon Concrete Road, and it is home to 482 people from 132 houses.

The village comprises one 80x47 feet monastery, Basic Education Primary School with four classrooms and a teacher room, the recreation hall for the local people, the office of village administrator, village library, rural health branch, two market buildings, two open air market halls, one staff quarter, water tanks and four halls for cow market.

Moreover, a 50 feet long and 30 feet wide wooden bridge with iron frames is laid on the creek. Rural roads have systematically been built. As a result, the local people can enjoy fruits of higher socio-economic life and social, economic, health and education sectors.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets locals of Aungthiri Village.—MNA



Approach road and approach bridge of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) seen on 29th October, 2011.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon).....

(from page 8)

The bridge with both railroad and motor road is much beneficial to Ayeyawady dwellers who once had to cross Ayeyawady River riskily.

Via Hinthada and Zalun, one can travel to Pathein, Hlinethaya of Yangon through the bridge in convenience. In addition, the bridge has made possible continuous rail travel from Pathein and Hlinethaya to Kalay of Sagaing Region linking Kalay, Pakokku, Kyangin, Hinthada railroad section, a total of about 700 miles long route.

The bridge has brought better transportation along while aiding economic, education, health and social development of the region. It is useful for national consolidation and also the

part of bridge network of the country.

“We had to rely on water way and motor road to go to Yangon from Pathein for trading. But there is the rail-cum-road bridge now right here which brings smooth commodity transportation, convenient travelling and less transportation charges.”

U Tun Lwin from Pathein

“I am really happy. We can now travel to Yangon or Pathein directly from Hinthada by train through the bridge. No more delay. No more inconvenience.”

Ma San San Htwe from Hinthada

“I am so pleased. You know, we have got fertile land and fish-abundant river, creeks and lakes. The bridge helps us to sell more crops and fish. It is great for locals.”

Ko Aung Oo from Nyaungdon

Translation: TKK

Construction site of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) on 12th August, 2011.





Georges Soros (L) of the Soros Foundation, speaks during a Media Welcome Lunch on the sidelines of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland, on 25 Jan, 2012. The Meeting this year, which will take place from 25 Jan to 29 Jan, will convene under the theme, "The Great Transformation: Shaping New Models." —XINHUA

Icelandic planes to be equipped with volcano ash monitors

STOCKHOLM, 28 Jan—Work is being done to equip Icelandic airplanes with volcano ash monitors to reduce possible disturbances caused by volcano eruptions, according to reports from Reykjavik on Wednesday.

It is vital for aviation in Iceland, in such close proximity to volcanoes, to know exactly how much ash there is in the stratosphere and where, Petur K. Maack, director of the Icelandic Civil Aviation Administration (CAA), was quoted by Iceland Review online as saying.

The monitoring equipments will be especially set up on airplanes flying to and from Keflavik International Airport near the country's capital Reykjavik, added Maack.

According to him, volcano eruptions, such as the one in Eyjafjallajokull in April 2010 which led to unprecedented shutdown of air space in Europe since World War Two, would cause fewer chaos to aviation industry today than it did nearly two years ago, since

researchers got better surveillance on volcanoes and also increased experience known from the Grimsvotn volcano's eruption last year.

The quality of satellite photos used for monitoring ash clouds have been improved greatly, reported Iceland Review online, adding that the Icelandic Meteorological Office is still planning to acquire new stationary and mobile weather scopes.

Volcanic ash is a serious hazard to aircraft, because it causes engine failure if it is sucked into the engines.

The eruption of Grimsvotn volcano in last spring sent ash clouds into the sky and disrupted air travel across some of the European countries, with smaller effect compared to the eruption of Eyjafjallajokull volcano which affected some 8 millions passengers worldwide.

Xinhua

Stranded dolphins tracked to Maine coast, suggesting success in rescue op

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—It's too early to call the rescue near Cape Cod a success, but it looks like there's good news for a fifth of the dolphins that began washing ashore on the Massachusetts coast earlier this month.

The majority of the dolphins rescued during the "mass strandings" have survived and appear to be tooling about off the coast of Maine, according to a news release from the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Rescuers put satellite tracking tags on six of the 24 animals that they have

rescued and released since 12 January, when rescuers began finding dozens of common and Atlantic white-sided dolphins along a 25-mile stretch of shoreline.

As many as 100 dolphins may have been stranded during the episode, 50 of which were dead when they were discovered, wrote IFAW senior program coordinator AJ Cady earlier this week. Three of the dolphins with tracking tags died after being released.

"We're all exhausted, muddy and unsure what tomorrow will bring," Cady

wrote Tuesday, "but rest assured, if more dolphins strand, we'll do everything in our power to rescue and release them into open ocean."

Experts are uncertain why so many dolphins washed ashore. Hypotheses include: They may have been caught in currents when they approached land to feed, a pod of dolphins may have stayed in the area to help a sick or injured dolphin or the topography of the Cape Cod coast may create areas that can trap dolphins.

You can watch an IFAW



expert explain last week that this is a common occurrence between January and April

and how rescuers go about saving the dolphins.

Internet

Dozens of dolphins began washing ashore near Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on 12 January.—INTERNET



A pedestrian walks on an icy street in Kaiyang County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 25 Jan, 2012. Guizhou Province was hit by a cold wave with freezing rain and snowfall recently, causing low temperature and damage to power supply system.—XINHUA

AK rifles' sales soar

MOSCOW, 28 Jan—Sales of AK assault rifles, the favourite of insurgents around the world, zoomed by 57 percent last year.

The AKs are also used by some 50 armies around the world. Izhmash, the manufacturer of Kalashnikov assault rifles, said the 2011 sales were valued at 5.73 billion rubles (USD 190 million). Civilian weapon sales rose 25 percent and a similar increase is expected this year, Izhmash spokeswoman Yelena Filatova said.—Internet

Teen girl offers drugs to cop, arrested

LONDON, 28 Jan—A US teenager found herself in big trouble after repeatedly texting a policeman asking him to buy drugs from her.

Lorraine Apuzzo, 19, of Storrs in Connecticut, allegedly offered the police officer 200 Percocet pills without realising who he was. She allegedly carried on exchanging messages with the officer and then arrived at a shopping centre with an accomplice, where she was arrested, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Percocet is a prescription drug usually used to relieve pain but can become highly addictive.

"The drug dealer thought they'd sent it to someone else," Meriden Detective Lt Mark Walerysiak said.

Apuzzo was arrested after police organized an undercover operation and met her at a Mall.

Internet

Three-tier chips to drive more powerful computing

LONDON, 28 Jan — Scientists are developing a chip with three or more processors stacked vertically to ensure an unprecedented speed, memory and calculating power, better functionality and wireless connectivity, reveals a study.

"It's the logical step in electronics development, because it allows a large increase in terms of efficiency," said Yusuf Leblebici, director of Microelectronics Systems Lab, Switzerland, who led the study.

Until now, chips could only be assembled horizontally via connections along their edges. They were connected

vertically by several hundred very thin copper microtubes. These wires passed through tiny openings, called Through-Silicon-Vias (TSV), made in the core of the silicon layer of each chip.

"This superposition reduces the distance between circuits, and thus considerably improves the speed of data exchange," explained Microelectronics researcher Yuksel Temiz, according to a university statement. The team had to overcome a number of difficulties, such as the fragility of the copper connections as they are miniaturised to an extreme

degree (about 50 micrometres in thickness), and are as thin as human hair.

"In three years of work, we tested thousands of TSV connections, and had more than 900 functioning simultaneously," said Leblebici. "Now we have a production process that is really efficient, the laboratory has also manufactured 3D multi-core processors, connected by a TSV network," he added.

The technology will initially be made available to a number of academic research teams for further development before being commercialized.

Internet



A fishing boat is frozen in the sea ice in northern Haizhou Bay of Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 25 Jan, 2012. Due to a bitter cold front, sea ice has covered vast area of northern Haizhou Bay of Lianyungang recently. XINHUA



Former British Olympic champion Sebastian Coe poses next to an ice sculpture to promote the 2012 Summer Olympic Games on the sideline of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.—INTERNET

US not to have new bases in Asia Pacific: commander

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—As the United States pivots its security priorities to the Asia Pacific, it has no interest in establishing new bases in the region, but rather it will rotate forces there, Robert Willard, commander of the US Pacific Command, told reporters on Friday.

“There is no desire nor view right now that the US is seeking basing options anywhere in the Asia-Pacific theater,” he said. Willard said the United States “would welcome discussions with the Philippines along those lines, but there’s no aspiration for bases in Southeast Asia.” Philippine officials are in Washington this week to discuss more military cooperation with US officials.

“We are interested in the Philippines in a maritime sense becoming increasingly self-sufficient, and we’ll help where we can,” he said, noting it’s highly unlikely that the United States would reestablish a permanent base at Subic Bay, once a major US naval base. The base, once the largest US Navy installation in

the Pacific, closed in the early 1990s.

Willard said offers by Australia and Singapore to the United States to rotate forces there enable Pacific Command to maintain a presence closer and more convenient to potential contingencies in the region, which is more convenient and cost effective.

The United States and Australia announced last November that company-size rotations of US Marines will begin deploying near Darwin in Australia’s Northern Territory for six-month rotations. The presence will expand to a force of 2,500 over the next several years. Singapore has invited the United States to forward-deploy littoral combat ships there.

According to a new strategic guidance released earlier this month, the United States is putting an emphasis in its presence in the Asia Pacific.

New budget outlines released by the Pentagon Thursday also protected its forces and presence in the region.—Xinhua

London Olympic’s opening ceremony to be themed “Isles of Wonder”

LONDON, 28 Jan—London 2012’s opening ceremony will feature the “Isles of Wonder,” the ceremony’s artistic director Danny Boyle revealed on Friday, six months ahead of the Games.

Boyle said it would be about a land that has been poisoned by industrial legacy and the recovery of

that land in a press briefing alongside creative director Stephen Daldry.

Daldry said the ceremonies will show “who we are, who we were and who we wish to be.”

The ceremony, which begins at 9 pm on 27 July, is expected to last well over three hours, but will need to end by 12:30 am to allow

spectators to get public transport home.

Boyle, who is best known for directing Oscar-winning movie *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Train-spotting*, said the biggest ringing bell in Europe will be hanging at one end of the stadium and sound at the opening of the Games.

The bell will be inscribed

with a quote from Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*: “Be not afraid, the isle is full of noises.” Boyle said he wanted people to hear it “for hundreds of years.”

Some 900 youngsters from the six Olympic host boroughs will be given roles in the opening and closing ceremonies, *BBC* reported.

Daldry said more detailed information will be released about the artists in April and the content of opening ceremony in June.

Xinhua



This file photo shows boats and kayaks in front of beach resorts on the central Philippine island of Boracay.

INTERNET

Three missing after Philippine tourist boat capsizes

MANILA, 28 Jan—Ten foreign tourists were rescued but three local crewmen remain missing after their boat capsized off the popular Philippine resort island of Boracay, according to police.

The motorised vessel carrying seven Britons, two Chinese, one Australian and the three Filipino crew members capsized on Thursday afternoon, according to a statement released by national police

headquarters in Manila.

The Boracay tourist police dispatched a boat to the scene and rescued all the foreigners but the three sailors could not be found, the statement said.

The search for the three is continuing, the statement said, without giving a reason for the mishap.

Boracay, a small island with powdery-white sands and clear waters, is one of the Philippines’ biggest tourism drawcards.—Internet



The Costa Concordia cruise ship is seen grounded off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy. The stricken ship lies very close to a marine sanctuary.—INTERNET

Five people killed in Turkey due to carbon monoxide heater poisoning

ANKARA, 28 Jan—Five people from four families were killed in carbon monoxide heater poisoning in southeastern Gaziantep province of Turkey on Friday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The victims are Dondu Acar, 29 years old; Resul Acar, 10; Muslum Acar, 12; Fatma Acar, 7; and Mustafa

Acar, 17. They were found dead at home in Nizip district of Gaziantep, when one of the relatives could not reach his family and informed villagers to look for them.

The bodies were taken to Birecik State Hospital, said the report.

An investigation into this incident was underway.—Xinhua

One dead as heavy snow hits southeast Europe

BUCHAREST, 28 Jan—A heavy winter snowstorm pummelled parts of southeastern Europe on Thursday, leaving at least one person dead, snarling road and air traffic and leaving thousands without power.

In the hardest hit parts of northern Bulgaria, snow drifts piled 1.5 metres deep, forcing officials to scramble hundreds of off-road vehicles to clear clogged roads and tow stranded cars.

Across the border, in Romania’s Giurgiu region, about 2,000 people were evacuated after they were

stranded overnight in their cars on dozens of snow-clogged roads.

One man died of hypothermia after snow smothered his car. Rescuers saved a woman in the same vehicle.

Also in Romania, a pregnant woman delivered her baby in an ambulance that was stuck in the snow.

Bulgaria, meanwhile, declared its highest “code red” alert across the country after hundreds of homes were left without power and air and road freight traffic was disrupted.



A man clears snow in Sofia, Bulgaria.

INTERNET

The government’s emergency response committee warned people to avoid all travel, as the snow,

which began falling on Wednesday, continued throughout the day.

Internet

Moderate earthquake hits Italy, three injured in South Africa building collapse

JOHANNESBURG, 28 Jan—A building under construction in Johannesburg of South Africa collapsed on Friday, leaving three people injured, local emergency services reported.

Three walls of a under construction building suddenly collapsed on Friday morning in Melrose in the city.

The local disaster relief workers rushed to the spot and rescued the injured men buried under the debris.

One man was critically injured and was sent to a nearby hospital for urgent treatment, a local official of the emergency services said.

The police would launch an investigation to probe the incident, according to the sources.—Xinhua

Powerful snowstorms hit Turkey

ISTANBUL, 28 Jan— Powerful snowstorms hit most parts of Turkey, causing avalanches and fatal accidents on highways in Anatolia as well as grounding a ship in Istanbul on Friday and Thursday.

One passenger was killed and more than 30 others injured when a bus skidded off the road and rolled over on its side near the Emirdag district of Afyonkarahisar province in central Anatolia, according to local English Daily News. Meanwhile, avalanches occurred in four separate locations on the road between Tunceli and Erzincan provinces in eastern Turkey on Friday. One truck and one minibus were partially covered by an avalanche, while a bus, several cars and trucks were reportedly stranded on the road.

The Moldavian cargo ship Rona was grounded on Istanbul's Black Sea coast due

to storms at sea. The ship had nine crew members on board and was sailing to the Bulgarian port of Varna.

Istanbul's Sile district on the Black Sea coast took the largest amount of snowfall in the city, with blizzards dumping 15 cm of snow overnight. Residents who worked in central Istanbul had difficulty going to work as the roads were closed. Many were forced to leave their vehicles on the road and walk to their destinations.

The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Governor's Office urged drivers not to take their cars and use public transportation instead.

The meteorology office warned of a second, cooler wave of snow-producing weather system coming to Turkey from Siberia. The system was expected to take effect on Jan. 30 and remain in Turkey until 7 Feb.—Xinhua



Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti (R) and visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai attend a press conference after signing a cooperation agreement in Rome, Italy, on 26 Jan, 2012. Monti and Karzai signed a cooperation agreement after their meeting on Thursday, making Italy the first Western country to sign with Afghanistan an international agreement of long-term cooperation and partnership.—XINHUA

Spanish airline to cease operations

BARCELONA, 28 Jan— Spanish airline Spanair said Friday it is ceasing operations and plans to go to court next week to seek bankruptcy protection. The financially struggling carrier issued a statement apologizing for any inconvenience and assuring passengers that Spanair was working with the airport authority and the Spanish development ministry to minimize travel disruptions.

Spanair currently operates around 200 flights a day, including service to a dozen cities in Europe and Africa.

Spanair, which has some

2,000 employees and a 22 percent share of Spain's air travel market, has been in financial straits for several years.

The decision to shut down came after the Catalonia regional government said it would not provide any more public money to Spanair and Qatar Airlines declined to invest in the Barcelona-based carrier. Spanair's financial problems were aggravated by its involvement in Spain's worst air disaster in 25 years: a Aug 20, 2008, crash near Madrid-Barajas International Airport that left 154 people dead.—Internet

Maker recalls 2,200 tubes of Aveeno baby lotion

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan— Johnson & Johnson announced Friday it is voluntarily recalling a single lot of Aveeno Baby Calming Comfort Lotion after a test by the Food and Drug Administration found it contained more of a form of bacteria than specifications allow.

"That test indicated that the lot exceeded the specifications for common bacteria, though extensive testing by an independent laboratory afterward did not show that specifications were exceeded," the company said in a news release. "However, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies Inc has voluntarily initiated this recall out of an abundance of caution. This action is not being undertaken on the

basis of adverse events and the potential for adverse health effects is remote."

The company identified the bacteria as coagulase-negative Staphylococci, which it described as a family of bacteria that naturally occurs in the environment. "These are common bacteria often found on the skin and scalp of babies and adults, and found in commonly used household and cosmetic products, at very low levels," it said. It did not release the amount that was detected.

The lot number, embossed on the tube, is 0161LK. The product was distributed in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas, the company said. It urged consumers who would

like a refund to call 877-298-2525. But Johnson & Johnson Vice President of Communications Bonnie Jacobs said the recall is being carried out at the retail level, and consumers who have bought the affected product can still use it. "They do not have to take any action," she said. The company's news release described the potential for the lotion to adversely affect one's health as "remote."

The 2,200 tubes in the lot that is being recalled were produced by a third-party manufacturer in Canada, she said. It did not identify the company.—Internet

Moderate quake hits Catanduanes, Philippines

MANILA, 28 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted Catanduanes, Philippines at 0017 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 48.80 km, was initially determined to be at 13.4279 degrees north latitude and 124.5987 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua



A member of "Tronar de Tambores" performs during the opening parade of Carnival 2012 in Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, on 27 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

Breast implant saves woman's life, after being stabbed by jealous ex

LONDON, 28 Jan—An American woman made a startling revelation when she said how her breast implants saved her from being killed by a jealous lover. The 41-year-old woman was stabbed repeatedly in the chest by a jealous lover rival—but, luckily for her, instead of going into her heart the knife pierced her newly enlarged breast.

Doctors informed the woman, who does not wish to be identified, that the saline

inside the implant saved her life. "That was the best investment I ever made," the Daily Mail quoted her as telling a Florida TV station. Her surgeon Frank Filiberto stated, "It was just really lucky, fortunate, just think about it three months ago if it happened to her, she would have been dead." The women had undergone a breast enlargement operation three months ago by paying 6,000 dollars to have saline implants.

She told authorities she was attacked by her ex-fiance's new girlfriend in his apartment in Melbourne, Florida. The Police said that the jealous ex—named Amy Winter—first scratched the victim's car, then turned the knife on her, stabbing her repeatedly in the left side of her chest. "It happened so fast. I'm like, 'Put down the knife'. I look down, and I was covered in blood," the woman said.

She said she had realized

that the knife had punctured the implant and she was soaked with saline. Doctors said the stab victim's breast implant had just enough saline in it to stop the knife from piercing through her chest. "When you stab it, it gives a little. It probably gave and couldn't get through it, then it went through it and couldn't go through the back wall," Dr Filiberto said. "She would have had a collapsed lung or (the knife would have) hit her heart," he said. Filiberto said that in his 30 years of cosmetic surgery, this is the first time he had witnessed such an incident, and it gives him a whole new outlook.

Internet



Members of British Aquabatics group perform inside an aquarium during the "Love story of the mermaid" underwater theater show at Turkuazoo Aquarium center in Istanbul, Turkey, on 27 Jan, 2012. The show will be presented till on 29 Jan.—XINHUA

14.13 dead in road accidents in Peru

LIMA, 28 Jan—At least 13 people died and 13 more injured in two road accidents in Peru, Highway Police (Polcar) reported on Friday.

Polcar said the worst accident occurred early Friday morning, when a van fell 150 meters down a precipice in Succha of Sanchez Carrion Province, 550 kilometers northwest the capital city of Lima.

According to police investigations, the driver and his assistant were checking over the vehicle's tires, when the van began to slide and fell to the bottom of the ravine. The accident killed nine and seriously injured six.

Another accident occurred on Thursday night, when a rural vehicle crashed into a bus parked on the highway near Chacacampa bridge in Huanca Province in the southern region of Puno. The collision killed four passengers on the bus and injured seven others.—Xinhua



Tourists dance with local performers at a tourist destination in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 27 Jan, 2012. The warm weather during the Spring Festival holiday in Hainan attracted many tourists recently.—XINHUA

Lego markets to girls with pink blocks

Danish toy manufacturer Lego has released a new line of its trademark bricks in pink and pastel colours as part of an effort to attract female customers.

Company officials said about 80 percent of Lego sales have traditionally been to boys, but the company is seeking to broaden its appeal to girls with the Olivia's House range of block sets, *The Daily Telegraph*, Britain reported.

The company said it spent four years developing the line, which includes a beauty parlor, a veterinarian's office and animal figures including ponies.

"I would argue we are giving girls what they are asking for," Lego marketing director David Buxbaum said.



Olivia's House by Lego.

Couple suspect robber at drive-through

A Wisconsin couple told officers they sped away from a Wendy's drive-through when a man approached their car with what appeared to be a gun. Madison Police said the 43-year-old man and a 38-year-old woman told them they sped away from the restaurant shortly before 11 pm Wednesday and drove directly to a police station about a mile from the Gammon

Road restaurant, *The (Madison) Capital Times* reported Thursday.

"They had pulled up to the ordering board at Wendy's when they saw the front-seat passenger in the car behind them get out and approach their vehicle," police spokesman Joel DeSpain said.

He said the man, described as a black man in his 20s, had a metallic object in his hand they believed to be a gun. "The woman told her husband to drive away and he did so," DeSpain said. "He believed they might have been robbed if they hadn't departed." Police said they have not identified any suspects.

Artist wants to bury plane in desert

A Swiss artist said he is working to obtain the proper permits to allow him to bury a Boeing 727 commercial jetliner in a California desert.

Christoph Buchel, who has applied for a conditional-use permit in Kern County, said he wants to bury the jetliner 38 feet below the surface of the Mojave Desert, near Boron, and connect it to the surface with a tunnel once it has been covered in sand and dirt, *the Bakersfield Californian* reported. "At this point in time, we've received no letters in opposition to it," said Scott Denney, operations division chief for the county Planning Department. "But we have received a lot of inquiries."

Buchel, who the Californian said was out of the country and unavailable for comment, dubbed the project "terminal."

Elephant gets contact lens

A 45-year-old Asian elephant at a Netherlands zoo has become the first of her species in Europe to be outfitted with a contact lens.

Officials with the Artis Zoo in Amsterdam said the elephant, Win Thida, had to undergo surgery and be outfitted with a contact lens after her eye was badly injured during a fight with another elephant, the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

"I was called in when the zoo reported that Win Thida's eye was painful and streaming," veterinarian Anne-Marie Verbruggen said. "The main difficulty was her height. Elephants can't lie down for long before their immense weight impairs their breathing, so I used a ladder to get close enough. It wasn't ideal, but it worked. She seemed happier straight away."

News Album

Python troupe to reunite for film

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan—British writer-comedian Terry Jones told *Variety* he plans to collaborate with his fellow surviving Monty Python comedy troupe members on a science-fiction film.

Jones, John Cleese, Eric Idle, Michael Palin, Terry Gilliam and the late Graham Chapman starred in the sketch comedy series "Monty Python's Flying Circus," as well as the film classics "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," "Monty Python's The Meaning of Life" and "The Life of Brian."

The five surviving members of the troupe last appeared together in New York in 2009 for the world premiere of the theatrical version of the documentary "Monty Python: Almost the Truth (The Lawyer's Cut)." Chapman died of cancer in 1989.

Jones told *Variety* he has written and plans to direct the movie "Absolutely Anything," a mix of live-action and animation featuring the voice talents of Palin, Cleese and Gilliam as aliens, and Oscar-winning actor Robin Williams as a talking dog.

Internet

Kristen Dunst loves surprises

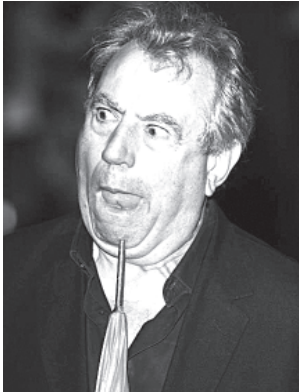
LONDON, 28 Jan—Actress Kirsten Dunst says she loves getting surprises in her relationships.

The 29-year-old, who has previously dated stars including actor Jake Gyllenhaal and singer Johnny Borrell, claims she doesn't care what a guy does for a living as long as he makes her laugh and is honest.

"When it comes to dating someone, I don't care what you do. Just as long as you make me laugh, you're a good person, you surprise me and we're honest with each other," showbizspy.com quoted Dunst as saying.—Internet



Writer-actress Kristen Wiig is to serve as a presenter alongside her "Bridesmaids" co-stars at the Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles next month.—Internet



British comedian/actor Terry Jones from Monty Python attends the premiere of "The Imaginarium Of Doctor Parnassus" at Empire, Leicester Square in London on 6 October, 2009.—INTERNET



Actress Kirsten Dunst arrives at the 2012 Critics' Choice Awards in Los Angeles on 12 January, 2012.—INTERNET

Daniel Radcliffe doesn't believe in ghosts

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—Daniel Radcliffe has said that he has never seen a ghost and doesn't believe in them.

"The Woman in Black" actor who stars in new supernatural thriller "Woman in Black" - doesn't believe he will ever share the experiences depicted in the movie because he doubts the existence of supernatural beings.

"I'm not a believer in ghosts so I find it very unlikely that I'll ever see one," Contactmusic.com quoted him as telling BANG Showbiz.

While Daniel found shooting his new movie to be a relaxing appearance, he admitted he was occasionally "frightened" when he caught a glimpse of co-star Liz White, who plays the titular ghost.

"Other than being occasionally scared by Liz White who would just sort of sit around in the Woman in Black outfit - I'd just sort of catch a glimpse of her sort of



Daniel Radcliffe half made up, that was kind of a bit frightening - it was quite a relaxed shoot, actually," he added.—Internet

Drew Barrymore still figuring out wedding plans

LONDON, 28 Jan—Drew Barrymore, who recently got engaged to Will Kopelman, revealed in an interview that she is just enjoying the moment before beginning to plan her wedding.

The bride to be told "Good Morning America" that when it comes to the daunting task of making arrangements, she is "just trying to figure it out". "I think everyone expects you to kind of know



Actress Drew Barrymore (L) and art consultant Will Kopelman. INTERNET

right away what all the plans are," *the Daily Mail* quoted the actress as saying.

"And I'm like, oh goodness, it just happened a month ago.

"Do I not have it together, or is it okay to keep daydreaming?"

The 36-year-old actress gushed about her future husband in the TV chat show.

"He's lovely. He's very, very nice. It's really positive. I'm super happy.

"It's just the best! We go on group trips and spend holidays together - there's a lot of love! "And that is really nice and very different from the way I grew up, which was more unstable and inconsistent, with a lot of highs and lows.—Internet

Chesney leads with 9 ACM nods

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan—Kenny Chesney led the field with nine nods when nominations for America's

Academy of Country Music Awards were announced Thursday. Chesney will compete for the top prize of

Entertainer of the Year with Jason Aldean, Brad Paisley, Blake Shelton and Taylor Swift.

Aldean is up for six prizes, while Lady Antebellum is in the running for five awards, Paisley for four, and Taylor Swift, Toby Keith, Eli Young Band and Grace Potter for three. The nominations were announced in ACM's first digital news conference on the academy's Facebook and Twitter pages.—Internet



Kenny Chesney led the field with nine nods when nominations for America's Academy of Country Music Awards were announced Thursday. INTERNET

'Bridesmaids' stars to be Oscar presenters

BEVERLY HILLS, 28 Jan—Six stars from the big-screen comedy "Bridesmaids" are to be presenters at the 84th Academy Awards in Los Angeles, the show's organizers said.

Telecast producers Brian Grazer and Don Mischer announced Thursday the participation of

"Bridesmaids" cast members Rose Byrne, Ellie Kemper, Melissa McCarthy, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Maya Rudolph and Kristen Wiig.

McCarthy is nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her performance in the film. Wiig, who co-wrote the film as well as acted in it, is nominated in the Original Screenplay category.

All six actresses will be making their first Oscar show appearances, the producers said.—Internet

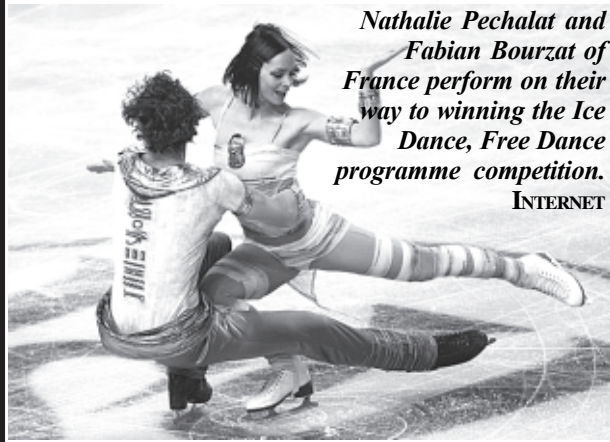
Pechalat, Bourzat retain ice dance title at Euros

SHEFFIELD, 28 Jan—Nathalie Pechalat and Fabian Bourzat of France retained their ice dance title at the European figure skating championships on Friday by beating Ekaterina Bobrova and Dmitri Soloviev in the free dance.

Trailing the Russian pair by 0.17 points after Wednesday's short dance,



Nathalie Pechalat and Fabian Bourzat of France perform on their way to winning the Ice Dance, Free Dance programme competition.



Pechalat and Bourzat brought the crowd to their feet with a rousing performance to score 99.29 points. Their overall total of 164.18 points was 3.95 ahead of Bobrova and Soloviev, who scored 95.17 points in the free dance to finish second. Bourzat says "it's a great pleasure for us to win this title again." Elena Ilinykh and Nikita Katsalapov of Russia took bronze, the country's fifth medal at this championship.

Internet

Ganassi teams figure to be up front at Daytona



Drivers, from left, Jamie McMurray, Dario Franchitti, of Scotland, Juan Pablo Montoya, of Colombia, and Scott Dixon, of New Zealand, talk during a practice session for the Grand-Am Rolex 24 Hours auto race at Daytona International Speedway, on 27 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

DAYTONA BEACH, 28 Jan—Chip Ganassi hopes to improve on last year's 24-hour race at Daytona International Speedway. It hardly seems possible. Ganassi's two-car team finished first and second in the twice-around-the-clock event, sweeping the prestigious endurance race at the hallowed track.

Two-time defending Grand-Am Series champions Scott Pruett and Memo Rojas, along with Joey Hand and Graham Rahal, ended up in Victory Lane after a one-lap sprint to the checkered flag. IndyCar stars Scott Dixon and Dario Franchitti and NASCAR drivers Juan Pablo Montoya and Jamie McMurray celebrated alongside them after settling

for second. Pruett's team will try to repeat when the 24-hour race begins Saturday afternoon. Dixon's crew will try to flip the script. "We want to be at the very front again, no question," Ganassi said. "It's going to be tough to top last year, but we can certainly try. That's what we're here to do. It's as simple as that."

Internet

Manchester United consider shock swoop for former Chelsea midfielder

MANCHESTER, 28 Jan—Manchester United could make a shock move for Bayer 04 Leverkusen midfielder Michael Ballack, after his club indicated that he could be available this January transfer window.

The Germany legend moved back to his former club in 2010, having enjoyed a profitable period between 1999-2002, but in recent games he has seemed somewhat distracted.

These performances have resulted in criticism coming in for the ex-Chelsea player from the Bayer Leverkusen chief executive Wolfgang Holzhauser, as well as former Germany manager Rudi Voeller, now a director at the club.

"Ballack's performances

have disappointed me. He has brought too little [in recent games]. He can influence the crowd with his aura – but he hasn't done so," Holzhauser said to German newspaper Express.

"He still has a contract, which we will handle professionally. But if a club comes along, we will talk to them."

Voeller was even more scathing in his assessment of Ballack's most recent game.

"I would have taken him off at half time," said Voeller.

Manchester United have seen the centre of their midfield highlighted as an area of weakness all season, and even with the imminent return of Tom Cleverley, they lack a world class presence.

Ballack won the Premier



Former Germany great could move to Old Trafford.

INTERNET

League title, three FA Cups, one Carling Cup and the Community shield in his time at Chelsea, and sometimes it is impossible to put a price on experience.

Sir Alex Ferguson elected to bring Paul Scholes back on a short term deal earlier this

month, but the veteran Englishman won't be able to play in every match.

Having attempted to sign Ballack shortly before he moved to Stamford Bridge in 2006, perhaps Sir Alex Ferguson will again take a look at Ballack.—Internet

US beats Costa Rica 3-0 to earn Olympic berth

LONDON, 28 Jan—The United States women's soccer team booked their spot in the London Olympics with a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in the semi-finals of the CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament on Friday.

The Americans qualified for the Olympics for a fifth straight time and will be joined in London by the winner of the other semi-final later on Friday in Vancouver between Canada and Mexico.

After steamrolling into the final four outscoring their opponents 31-0, the US ran into an inspired Costa Rica, the reigning Olympic champions lucky to escape the opening half with a 1-0 lead off a 16th minute header from Tobin Heath.

In seven meetings the Costa Ricans had never scored against the Americans but came close twice in the opening half forcing US keeper Hope Solo to produce her biggest saves of the tournament.

The Central Americans kept the US under pressure after the break but the Americans



Rachel Buehler (in white) of the US heads the ball against Raquel Rodriguez of Costa Rica during the second half of their semi-final CONCACAF Women's Olympic qualifying soccer match in Vancouver, British Columbia on 27 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

finally seized control adding some insurance in the 72nd minute after Abby Wambach's chip was cleared off the line and Carli Lloyd unleashed a rocket from the top of the box for a 2-0 lead. Alex Morgan completed the scoring in the 88th minute.—Reuters

Stanley takes lead at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO, 28 Jan—The tougher South Course at Torrey Pines suited Kyle Stanley just fine Friday in the Farmers Insurance Open.

Stanley overcame a double bogey early in his round by running off four birdies on the front nine for a 4-under 68, giving him a one-shot lead over Brandt Snedeker going into the weekend.

Snedeker, who first gained notoriety as a rookie at Torrey Pines when he shot 61 on the North Course, had a 64 on the North to make a swift climb up the leaderboard. He is coming off hip surgery at the end of last year and made his season debut at the Humana Challenge last week by getting into the hunt. He tied for eighth, and here he is again.

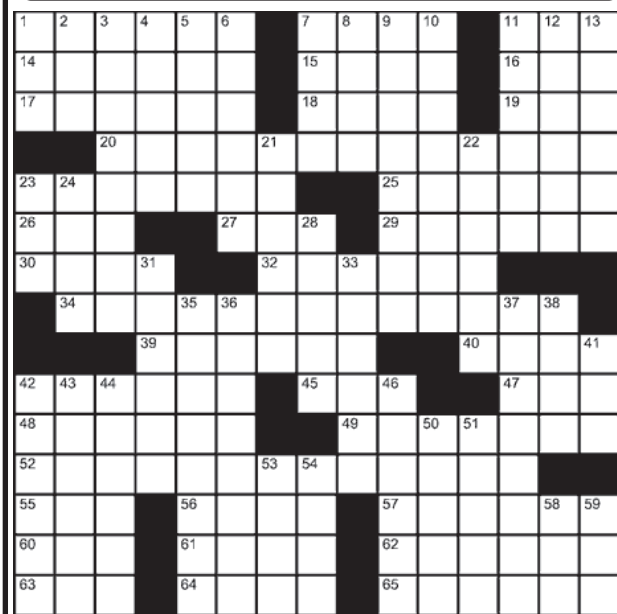
"I'm certainly surprised that I played this well this fast," Snedeker said. "Normally, it takes me a while to get the rust off. But my practice at home went really, really well. I was actually chomping at the bit to get out here because I knew I was playing well.—Internet



Kyle Stanley hits his tee shot on the 14th hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines during the second round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament, on 27 Jan, 2012, in San Diego.

INTERNET

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1. Small Asian arboreal ape with no tail
- 7. "___ Smile" (1976 hit)
- 11. Inspection Test Date (acronym)
- 14. Attraction
- 15. Complain
- 16. "___ any drop to drink":

Coleridge

- 17. Loud harsh noises
- 18. "God's Little ___"
- 19. "So ___ me!"
- 20. Ollie performers
- 23. Famously
- 25. Eats up
- 26. 1969 Peace Prize grp. (acronym)

Down

- 1. Blah-blah-blah
- 2. "___ say!" (2 wds)
- 3. Launch
- 4. Murder without leaving a trace on the body
- 5. Companion of Artemis
- 6. Get cozy

- 7. Fink
- 8. "Giovanna d' ___" (Verdi opera)
- 9. Curiosity (2 wds)
- 10. City in NE Scotland on the North Sea
- 11. Supplement
- 12. Someone who travels for pleasure
- 13. Fancy
- 21. Lens cover?
- 22. Slept, Brit. slang
- 23. Bubkes
- 24. Assortment
- 28. Murmured
- 31. Do away with
- 33. Most uncouth
- 35. Combine with 53 (chemistry)
- 36. Closed tightly
- 37. Academic term
- 38. Accommodate
- 41. Grand ___ ("Evangeline" setting)
- 42. Rings
- 43. Took part in turbulent disturbance
- 44. Brief appearances of a prominent actor
- 46. Fix
- 50. ___ brulee
- 51. Alter
- 53. Detective's need
- 54. BBs, e.g.
- 58. Victorian, for one
- 59. Clairvoyance, e.g. (acronym)

DISTRICT NEWS

Traffic rules disseminated

MONYWA, 28 Jan—An educative talk on traffic rules was held at Education College in Monywa on 18 January. Head of Sagaing Region Directorate of Road Administration U Thein Han, District Law Officer Daw Phyu Phyu Tint and Police Captain Sai Hsaing Wam of Traffic Police gave talks on root causes of traffic accidents, rules of pedestrians and traffic signals with the use of projector. They donated helmets to the college through the principal.—*DRA*



Stake driven for station hospital

PINLAUNG, 28 Jan—With the aim of developing the rural social economy, a ceremony to drive stakes for construction of Paunglaung Station Hospital was held in Phogon Village of Pinlaung Township on 21 January. Township administrator U Ko Ko Zaw and officials laid cornerstones for the building. The station hospital will be 126 feet long, 73.5 feet wide and nine feet high facility. *Township IPRD*

Davis-White win short dance at US Championships

SAN JOSE, 28 Jan—Meryl Davis and Charlie White are on a different level than their American competitors.



Charlie White, right, and Meryl Davis

Heck, they're lapping the rest of the world, too.

The first Americans to win a world title in ice dance took a comfortable lead at the US Figure Skating Championships on Friday, and their score of 76.89 in the short dance

is sure to get the world's attention. Not only was it four-plus points ahead of Maia and Alex Shibutani, last year's US runners-up and the surprise bronze medalists at the world championships, but it's well ahead of what the best of the rest has been able to do, too. Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, the closest thing Davis and White have to competition these days, scored 68.41 at the Canadian championships earlier this month — though that was with a major error. The top teams at this week's European championships struggled just to crack 65 points.

"It's nationals right? Judges all prefer to get positive things, and Meryl and Charlie gave them a chance to do that," said Marina Zoueva, one of Davis and White's coaches. "They skated great, technically and emotionally." The free dance is Saturday. The men's short programme is later Friday. Davis and White have been unbeatable since finishing second to Virtue and Moir at the 2010 world championships. In addition to their historic title last spring, they edged the Canadians again last month in the Grand Prix finals.

Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-1-12 09:30 am ~ 30-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

- * News
- * Fortune of Human correlated with Astro Science (12 Sign Ascendants in February 2012)
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Yein Yein Mustard and Meat Roll"
- * Lannakha Waterfall
- * News
- * Today's Efficient Youth (Global Warming)
- * News
- * MI People's Celebrities ("One" and the Meaning of Housewife)
- * A Pilgrimage to Prominent Pagodas in Pakokku
- * All Lives Under The Sky: "Catch of Fish by Cooperation of Fisherman and Dolphin"
- * Literature for Heart & Soul
- * Coloured Glass Ball ... Expert
- * Music Gallery
- * Orchids Research from Mount Popa
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies "Deadhead Yet Cherished"

MYANMAR TV

(29-1-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:50 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 4. Health Programme
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial Song
- 11:30 am
- 2. TV Drama Series
- 12:30 pm
- 3. Myanmar Video
- 2:00 pm
- 4. Song Varieties
- 4:25 pm
- 5. Teleplay (Health)
- 4:40 pm
- 6. Dance Of National Races
- 5:05 pm
- 7. Songs For National Spirit
- 6:20 pm
- 8. Cartoon Series
- 6:45 pm
- 9. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 10. News
- 11. Cartoon Series
- 12. TV Drama Series

NLM-ner Joke

Car company names

BMW

Big Money Works
Bought My Wife
Brutal Money Waster

FORD

Fix Or Repair Daily
Found On Road, Dead
Fast Only Rolling Downhill

GM

General Maintenance

GMC

Garage Man's Companion

HONDA

Had One Never Did Again
Happy Owners Never Drive Anything else.
Hated Old Noisy Damaged Auto

HYUNDAI

Hope You Understand Nothing's Driveable And Inexpensive?

MAZDA

Most Always Zipping Dangerously Along

Weather for 29th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26/79	10/50	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	29/84	07/45	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	36/97	15/59	Generally fair weather	
4	Chin	19/66	00/32	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	26/79	10/50	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	32/90	12/54	Generally fair weather	
7	Taninthayi	35/95	19/66	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	30/86	14/57	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	32/90	14/57	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	30/86	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	35/95	16/61	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	33/91	14/57	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30/86	13/55	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	07/45	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	25/77	04/39	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	09/48	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	16/61	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	14/57	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	14/57	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	14/57	Generally fair weather	
Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today		During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (5°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Haka (0°C), Pinlaung (2°C), Namhsam and Heho (3°C) each and Lashio (4°C).			
Bay Inference	Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere Bay of Bengal.				
State of the Sea	Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.				
Outlook for subsequent two days	Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar Areas.				

Azarenka crowned Open queen, world No 1



MELBOURNE, 28 Jan—Victoria Azarenka became the first Belarusian to win a grand slam singles title when she claimed the Australian Open title with a crushing 6-3 6-0 victory over Russia's

Maria Sharapova on Saturday. The 22-year-old's first grand slam title also means that she will become the new world number one when the WTA rankings are released on Monday.

While virtually carbon copies of each other in terms of height and playing style, Azarenka had won the two previous finals between the pair, both on hardcourts, and the players' entrances could not have been more prophetic.

Carrying a designer

handbag Sharapova was stalked down the tunnel by the hooded Azarenka, exuding a sense of menace as she stayed in the shadows.

The mugging by the first timer, when it did come, was brutally efficient. It took until the third game of the match, but by then the visible signs of anxiety were gone. Azarenka had dropped her opening service game, was trailing 2-0 and 0-30 down in her second when she finally realised she had Sharapova's match.

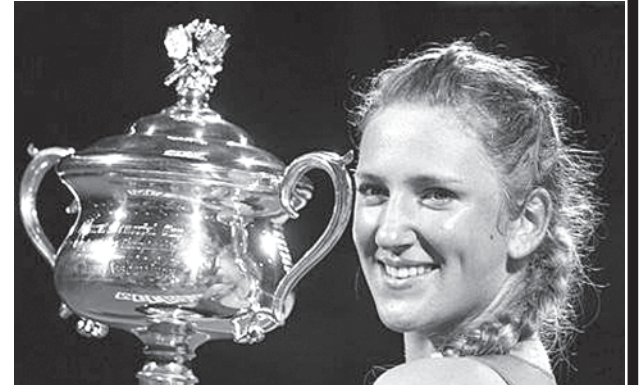
Attacking at every opportunity, Azarenka used



her better speed and footwork to absorb and negate the Russian's power game and bashed her about the baseline at will. The Belarusian overcame the early deficit and broke Sharapova twice on the way to taking the first set in 46 minutes.

With the Russian down to one knee, Azarenka did not

let up her attack, breaking Sharapova's serve in the first game of the second set and then holding off a break point in the next game. She soon ran away with the set and the match, claiming the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup when Sharapova blasted a backhand into the net, sending Azarenka sinking to her knees proclaiming "I can't believe it" before rushing over to embrace those sitting in her support box. Azarenka became the third woman, after Evonne Goolagong-Cawley and Chris O'Neil, to win the junior and senior singles title at Melbourne Park. She won the junior title in 2005.—*Reuters*



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attend opening of Aungthiri Village

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended the ceremony to open Aungthiri Village built by Aungthiri Foundation and share merits for donation of Aungthiri Monastery in Aungthiri Village of Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental officials, the chairman and members of Aungthiri Foundation and local people.

Chairman of the foundation U Tha Htay explained the purpose of building the village.

Executive of the foundation U Zaw Moe Win handed over documents related to Pobbathiri Township Administrator U Kyaw Tint Lwin.

On behalf of the local people, townselder U Tin Oo spoke words of thanks for construction of the building.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay, Chairman of the foundation U Tha Htay and member of Nay Pyi Taw District Union Solidarity and Development Party U Kyaw Htay cut the ribbon to unveil the signboard of the archway.

The Vice-President unveiled the signboard of the village.

Members of the foundation U Tun Myint Naing, U Ohn Kyaw and U Khin Maung Aye sprinkled scented water on the village administrator office, village library and signboard of rural health branch.

The Vice-President and party visited the village and viewed the village road, creek crossing bridge and development of the village.

He also looked into shops at the open air market and cordially greeted the local people.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, the Union ministers, the deputy ministers and guests attended the ceremony to share merits



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets those reading at Aungthiri Village Library.—MNA

for construction of Aungthiri Monastery.

Chairman of Pobbathiri Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Wegyi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Addiççavamsa administered the Five Precepts and members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

The Vice-President and wife donated alms to the Wegyi Monastery Sayadaw.

The Union ministers, the deputy ministers and congregation offered donations to members of the Sangha.

The master of ceremonies supplicated on the purpose of donating the monastery.

Executive of the foundation U Zaw Moe Win offered documents related to the monastery to Abbot of the monastery Bhaddanta Nandiya.

The Wegyi Monastery Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained. The ceremony came to an end with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

(See page 9)

Villas-Boas hails Terry display Blues boss also happy with no pre-match handshakes



Andre Villas-Boas praised John Terry's defensive display following Chelsea's 1-0 victory over QPR in the FA Cup fourth round. INTERNET

LONDON, 28 Jan—Juan Mata scored the only goal of the game from the penalty spot at Loftus Road, after referee Mike Dean awarded a spot-kick as Daniel Sturridge went down in the area under the challenge of Clint Hill. The build-up to the

match was dominated by Anton Ferdinand and Terry, following their encounter in the Premier League fixture at the same ground earlier in

the season.

Villas-Boas said: "It was a good solid display defensively. This last January since Aston Villa we have organised ourselves a little bit better in defence without conceding so many goals.

"Individually from John it was an excellent performance, very focused and he managed to get off-field events out of his mind and concentrate fully on his job."

There was no pre-match handshake between the two teams, a decision that was made on Friday. Villas-Boas was informed before the game on Saturday and was

happy with the move.

"I was informed of the decision 45 minutes before the game. What I know is there was a lot of expectancy towards what would have happened on that handshake," he added.

"I think it was a wise decision bearing in mind the expectancy. It was wise not to do it because it could have an impact on crowd behaviour straight after.

"I think the decision of both clubs plus the FA was sensible. It was a question of avoiding troubled situations.

"Emotions were kept low on a very emotional

West London derby, both teams set out to play football."

On the backing from the travelling fans, the Portuguese remarked: "It was positive, we managed to fill out all of the stand with good support throughout the game. I think we erase this animosity when we play away from home, it's the environment we want to transfer to Stamford Bridge.

"Stamford Bridge is a much more anxious stadium and when we play away it is much more supportive, much more chanting."

Internet

Significant night temperatures (28-1-2012)

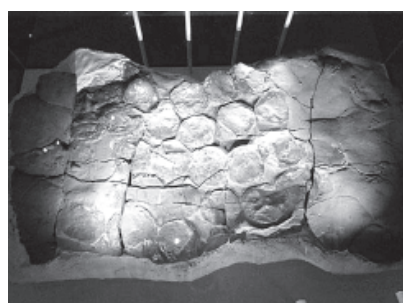
Haka	(0°C)
Pinlaung	(2°C)
Namhsan	(3°C)
Heho	(3°C)
Lashio	(4°C)

Simple blood test may provide early diagnosis of Alzheimer's



PAGE 4

Oldest dinosaur nest discovered

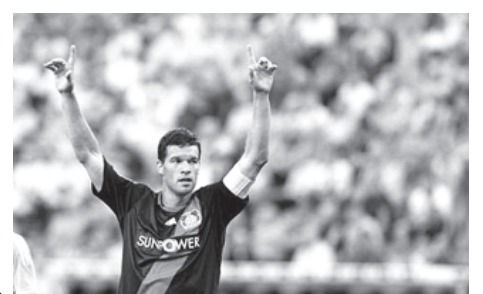


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Male mice sing songs to woo females

PAGE 5

Manchester United consider shock swoop for former Chelsea midfielder



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