To build modern, developed nation calls for hardworking healthy human resources

Bogale Township People’s Hospital (100-bed) opened

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—The opening of Bogale Township People’s Hospital (100-bed) in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region, was held in the hospital compound in Myothit Ward, Bogale, yesterday morning, with a speech by Prime Minister U Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Region Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Win, ministers, heads of departments, Region, district and township level departmental officials, the medical superintendent, doctors, nurses, medical staff, and guests.

The commander, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Minister for Forestry U Thein Aung formally opened the hospital.

The Prime Minister unveiled the signboard of the health care facility.

The Prime Minister and party had documentary photos taken with the medical superintendent, doctors and attendees.

(See page 8)

Beside efforts for manufacturing quality machine parts locally, it is necessary to build whole mother industry in the nation

PM visits display of machine parts, spare parts used in steam/gas turbines, power grids

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Prime Minister U Thein Sein attended the ceremony to display machine parts and spare parts used in steam/gas turbines and power grids of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 held at Ahlon gas fired power plant of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise on Strand Road in Ahlon Township, Yangon on 12 January.

Accompanied by ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads, the Prime Minister arrived at the compound of the Ahlon gas fired power plant where Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khan Maung Myint

(See page 7)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Saturday, 15 January, 2011

**Work hard for factories and plants to be operated at full capacity**

Thanks to the government’s efforts for agricultural development, the nation has enjoyed self-sufficiency in food plus surpluses. In the meantime, the nation is trying its best to transform itself into an industrialized one.

No. 5 Fertilizer Plant (Pathein) of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise was opened in Kanyidaunt Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, on 12 January.

The fertilizer plant can produce 325 tons of ammonia and 500 tons of urea a day. With the area of 200 acres, the plant is built near Ohbo Village in Kanyidaunt Township, Pathein District.

The workers are to work hard for their plant to be able to operate at full capacity. And service and maintenance tasks need to be carried out on a regular basis.

As the machines and equipment can be worn out with the passage of time, service and maintenance tasks are to be implemented according to schedule. In addition, the plants will be able to operate at full capacity if the workers can deal skillfully with the machines.

So, conducting training courses and exchange of expertise need to be prioritized.

All in all, the workers of No. 5 Fertilizer Plant are urged to work hard for their plant to be able to operate at full capacity.

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**Cairo tailoring shop launches its branch in Nay Pyi Taw**

YANGON, 14 Jan—Cairo tailoring shop at No. 190, ground floor, 37th Street (middle block), Kyauktada Township in Yangon has now passed its 50 years. It has been fulfilling customers’ satisfactory ever since its launch.

Now, it expands its territory at No. (Na.-54/55/56) in Thabyegon Market, Nay Pyi Taw.

For more information, please dial (Fax: 95-1-391578), (Ph: 01-385136 and 372743) in Yangon, and (Ph: 067-414146 and 067-414822, Ext: 846) in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

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**EP-1 Minister receives PRC guests**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min received Mr. Liao Zelong, President of Yunnan Power Grid Corporation and President Mr. Hu Gang of State Development & Investment Corporation, and party from the People’s Republic of China at the minister’s office here yesterday morning.

They discussed the implementation of Namway and Namtka hydropower projects. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and departmental heads.—MNA

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**Minister visits local pearl sales**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint visited the local pearl sales at the 30th local pearl sales at Myanma Pearls Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines held the 30th local pearl sales at Myanma Pearls Museum here with tender system and competitive bidding system.

Yesterday, Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint visited the sales, inspected displayed pearls and greeted pearl merchants.—MNA

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**U Min Lwin accredited to Bangladesh**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Min Lwin, Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

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**U Kyaw Zwar Minn accredited to France**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Zwar Minn, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, the United States of America, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic.—MNA
Gunmen kill 9th police officer in northern Mexico

MONTERREY, 14 Jan—Mexican authorities say a state police officer was killed while on patrol in Monterrey, becoming the ninth officer killed in just two weeks in the northern industrial city.

Nueve Leon State security spokesman Jorge Domene says the officer was on patrol near the Tec de Monterrey University when he was killed. He says a joint state and military task force later killed three gunmen suspected in the attack.

Four city police officers, three traffic officers and a police prison guard have also been shot dead since the beginning of the year in Monterrey.

The city is the capital of Nuevo Leon State, which has seen a spike in drug violence as drug cartels fight over smuggling routes to the United States.—Internet

Acid-laden tanker capsizes on Rhine in Germany

BERLIN, 14 Jan—A tanker loaded with sulfuric acid capsized on the Rhine river in Germany on Thursday, and special cranes and more than 100 rescuers struggled to right the vessel and find two crew members who remain missing.

There was no immediate word on why the ship capsized, the shipping office in Bingen said. Two other crew members were rescued from the ship, which overturned near St Goarshausen, in western Germany, early in the day.

“Suddenly the ship just disappeared from the radar,” said Martin Mauermann, the head of the Office of Water and Shipping in Bingen, adding that could mean the vessel submerged completely before turning on its side and floating to the surface.

“It’s an abstruse case,” he said.

The 360-foot (110-metre) long tanker was carrying 2,400 tons of sulfuric acid. There were no indications that the load was leaking and initial measurements carried out downstream from the scene showed no abnormalities, the shipping office said.

Yet given the difficulty of righting the vessel, leakage of the chemicals cannot be ruled out, Kurt Beck, governor of Rhineland-Palatinate State, told reporters.

“It is possible that we won’t be able to right the ship with the cranes,” Beck said.

Iran invites foreign experts to nuclear sites

TEHERAN, 14 Jan—Iran said Thursday that foreign experts can accompany the international envoys to inspect its nuclear facilities ahead of planned talks with world powers.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said Iran’s invitation to representatives of Russia, China, the EU, developing countries and Arab states to visit its nuclear facilities could be extended to the experts as well. “There are no restrictions on bringing nuclear experts as companions,” he said, in response to concerns by some country representatives that they didn’t have sufficient expertise for the trip.

Mehmanparast said the invitation aimed at building trust ahead of talks 21 Jan with world powers in Istanbul over Iran’s disputed nuclear programme, which the U S and many of its allies fear might be aimed at developing atomic weapons. Iran denies the charge, and says the programme is peaceful.

Iran’s offer pointedly did not include the United States, one of its biggest critics internationally, and many saw this as an attempt to divide the nations conducting the nuclear talks. Already a number of countries have indicated they may pass on the tour.

Two Afghan civilians killed in violence

KABUL, 14 Jan—A pair of militant attacks on Thursday killed two Afghan civilians, including a child, in part of the persistent violence across the country despite crackdowns on militant leaders, officials said.

The child was killed by a bomb outside a music cassette shop in a marketplace in Jalalabad, some 80 miles (125 kilometers) east of Kabul, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for Nangarhar Province.

NATO said three other civilians were wounded in the blast.

In the south, NATO said militant opened fire on civilians in the Washir District of Helmand Province, killing one and wounding three more. The wounded were evacuated to a coalition medical facility.

Separately, NATO reported that Afghan and coalition forces on Wednesday detained a Taliban operator in Behshad District of the same Province, one of scores of militants who have been captured or killed in recent months in southern and eastern Afghanistan, especially along the Pakistan border.

Two earthquakes on New Zealand North Island’s East Coast

WELLINGTON, 14 Jan—New Zealand North Island’s East Coast was shaken by two earthquakes early Friday.

The first and largest quake, a 5.5 magnitude tremour, struck 160 km north-east of Ruatoria, near Tokomaru Bay, at 1.04 am (12:04 GMT Thursday).

The New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science reported that the tremour was likely to have been felt throughout the East Coast. A 4.2 magnitude earthquake which struck several hours later would have given Gisborne residents an early wake up call. The 5.31 am quake was centered 10 km north-east of the city at a depth of 30 km.—Xinhua

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Puerto Rico aims to protect newly discovered reefs

SAN JUAN, 14 Jan—As the ocean floor plunges off southwestern Puerto Rico, it reveals coral reefs dotted with bright-blue sea squirts and a multitude of other organisms whose existence has given hope to scientists who strive to save the island’s threatened ecosystems.

The organisms are an integral part of a group of reefs discovered to be thriving near an area where most shallow coral reefs and the fish that depend on them are in poor health overall.

The reefs — at a depth of up to 500 feet (152 metres) in an area 12 miles (19 kilometres) across — were recently discovered as part of a federally funded mission to conduct research on deep-water corals, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“We stumbled across this area,” Richard Appeldoorn, a professor at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez who was involved in the mission, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Divers enrolled in a one-year training course to depths of up to 100 feet (31 metres) noticed the thriving reefs and large predators lurking nearby, said Appeldoorn, who oversees the university’s fisheries, biology and coral reef studies programme.

The deep underwater landscape they encountered was populated by lettuce coral, the lace-like star coral and several species of sponges, as well as groupers, snappers and reef sharks, said Appeldoorn, who is calling for the protection of the reefs and nearby shallower areas where fish spawn and later retreat to deeper waters.—Internet

Computer could make two ‘Jeopardy!’ champs deep blue

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, 14 Jan—The clue: It’s the size of 10 refrigerators, has access to the equivalent of 100 million pages of information and knows how to answer in the form of a question.

The correct response: “What is the computer IBM developed to become a ‘Jeopardy!’ whiz?”

Watson, which IBM claims as a profound advance in artificial intelligence, edged out game-show champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter on Thursday in its first public test, a short practice round ahead of a million-dollar tournament that will be televised next month.

Later, the human contestants made jokes about the “Terminator” movies and robots from the future. Indeed, four questions into the round you had to wonder if the rise of the machines was already upon us — in a trivial sense at least.

Watson tore through a category about female superheroes, repeatedly activating a mechanical keyboard with its 200-plus keys.

“It’s Jericho?” “What is Cyborg?”

Its gentle male voice even scored a laugh when it said, “Let’s finish ‘Chicks Dig Me.’”

Jennings, who won a record 74 consecutive “Jeopardy!” games in 2004-05, then salvaged the category, winning $1,000 by identifying the “Jeopardy!” games in 2004-05, then salvaged the category, winning $1,000 by identifying the

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NASA pushes Endeavour launch to 19 April

CAPE CANAVERAL, 14 Jan—NASA says the date for the last launch of the space shuttle Endeavour will be 19 April to give workers time to test and modify its external fuel tank.

Originally scheduled for 1 April, the move will allow engineers to modify crack-prone support beams on the bullet-shaped tank, Florida Today reported Thursday. The modifications come after small cracks were detected on support beams on shuttle Discovery’s external tank after its scheduled 5 Nov launch was scrubbed.

NASA has returned Discovery to the Kennedy Space Centre Vehicle Assembly Building for repairs and modifications.

New Delhi, 14 Jan—India says it will initiate a pilot project to see if salt-tolerant cash crops can be grown in the country’s salty coastal areas.

In the pilot effort, an area in Tamil Nadu State will house dozens of species of halophytes, or salt-loving plants, that can be cultivated as cash crops. Halophytes, found naturally throughout the coastal areas of India, can be used to produce edible oils, medicines, vegetables, and cattle and fish feed. Researchers say salt-resistant plants are important for people living in coastal areas where vast stretches of land have become saline and unsuitable for any other form of cultivation.

The project, funded by the Indian government, is a historic step towards ecoconservation, Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh says. The research could transform agricultural production in coastal areas, becoming increasingly saline not only in India but in other parts of South Asia as well, scientists say.—Internet

India to try growing salt-tolerant crops

Washington, 14 Jan—Tel Aviv University researchers have developed a new technology called ‘Spaser’, a laser that can be as small as needed to fuel nano-technologies of the future.

Prof David Bergman had patented the idea 2003 with Prof Mark Stockman of Georgia State University in Atlanta.

‘Spaser’ stands for ‘surface plasmon amplification by stimulated emission of radiation’ and are considered a critical component for future technologies based on nanophotonics.

A Spaser-based microscope might be so sensitive that it could see genetic base pairs in DNA. The technology could also lead to computers and electronics that operate at speeds 100 times greater than today’s devices, using light instead of electrons to communicate and compute. “It rhymes with laser, but our Spaser is different. Based on pure physics, it’s like a laser, but much, much, much smaller,” said Prof Bergman, who owns the Spaser patent with his American partner.—Internet

Thanks to bacteria, Titanic ‘will be reduced to a rust stain in a few years’

LONDON, 14 Jan—Scientists have revealed that bacteria are eating away at the once magnificent Titanic, which sits at the bottom of the ocean now. Rust-eating bacteria called Halomonas titanicae will reduce the massive ship to a huge “rust stain”, they said.

“I think Titanic has maybe 15 or 20 years left,” the Daily Express quoted researcher Dr Henrietta Mann, from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, as saying.

Ed Coghill, chairman of the Irish Titanic Historical Society, said, “It may be that as the structure disappears, more of the interior becomes accessible.” Titanic was first located 329 miles off Newfoundland in 1985. She hit an iceberg on her maiden voyage in 1912.—Internet

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Visitors view a recreational vehicle during the 81st annual Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoors Show in Chicago, the United States, on 13 Jan, 2011. The five-day show kicked off here on Wednesday. Xinhua

Over Earth’s colourful horizon, the silhouette of the space shuttle Endeavour is featured in this photo by an Expedition 22 crew member on board the International Space Station, as the shuttle approached for its docking on 9 Feb, 2010 during the STS-130 mission.—Internet

The target date for Discovery’s 39th and final flight is set for 4:50 pm EST, 24 Feb.—Internet

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Bottle rockets can cause serious eye injuries in kids

NASHVILLE, 14 Jan— Bottle rockets can cause serious eye injuries to children that can lead to permanent vision loss, a new study warns. Researchers at Vanderbilt University Medical Centre in Nashville, Tenn, detail the cases of eight boys and two girls, aged 18 or younger, who suffered eye injuries caused by bottle rockets between 2006 and 2009.

Eight of the patients were injured while launching bottle rockets and two were bystanders. None of them was wearing eye protection when they suffered their injury, according to the report.

The 11 eyes injured among the 10 patients included: defects in the epithelium lining the cornea (seven eyes); bleeding in the front of the eye (six eyes); traumatic inflammation of the iris (two eyes); a tear of the iris (four eyes); cataract (four eyes); retinal dialysis or a type of retinal tear (one eye); and bleeding into the eye’s vitreous fluid (two eyes).

Eight eyes required initial treatments such as surgical removal of the lens or removal of damaged corneal tissue. Three patients required additional treatment, including muscle surgery and placement of a new lens, the investigators found.

In recent follow-ups conducted on 10 of the eyes, visual acuity was 20/30 or better in four eyes and 20/200 or worse in six eyes. The most common cause of persistent vision problems was damage to the part of the retina responsible for central vision (maculopathy).

Health Tip: Your diet’s role in Gestational diabetes

Gestational diabetes is first diagnosed while a woman is pregnant. The US National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse says dietary changes may be key to managing the disease. The agency offers these examples of what a gestational diabetes meal plan may include:

* Restricting sweets.
* Eating three small meals each day, with on-to-three snacks in between.
* Watching the amount of carbohydrates that you eat, and when you eat them.
* Increasing fiber intake by eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Gold rises for third straight day

CHICAGO, 14 Jan— Gold futures on the COMEX Division of the New York Mercantile Exchange edged higher on Wednesday, marking the third straight rise this week, as concerns over the European sovereign debt crisis and increasing demands for physical gold continued to bolster the market.

The most active gold contract for February delivery gained 1.5 dollars, or 0.1 percent, to close at 1,385.8 dollars per ounce.

Market traders noted that although the concerns over Portugal’s debt problem were temporarily eased after the country successfully auctioned off its bonds on Wednesday, investors snapped up gold at the day’s lower prices and pushed up the price.

European finance ministers will discuss increasing the effective lending capacity of their financial rescue fund in the next week. The EU needs a “comprehensive strategy” to restore its public order through budget measures, financial repair and reform, said Olli Rehn, the EU’s commissioner of economic and monetary affairs.

Moreover, political dealers said gold could rise further as demand from jewelers and investors picked up in India and China, leading to tighter stocks for gold bars in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Two drugs better for high blood pressure?

LONDON, 14 Jan— When it comes to treating high blood pressure, two drugs are better than one, British researchers say.

High blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart attacks and strokes, often requires more than one drug over a period of months to control it, but a study has found beginning treatment with two medicines together reduces blood pressure by 25 percent compared with using one drug at a time. The Daily Telegraph reported Thursday.

The research involving 1,250 patients with high blood pressure showed that starting treatment with the two drugs aliskiren and amlodipine in a combination pill was more effective at reducing blood pressure than one drug.

Scientists say they suspect taking the drugs in series, first one then the other, allows the body to neutralize each of them in turn, whereas taking them together may prevent this from happening.

“This study adds significantly to the evidence that starting treatment for patients with high blood pressure with two medicines rather than one is safe, and more effective than waiting to add the second medicine later,” Jeremy Pearson, associate medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said.

High blood pressure is estimated to affect 10 million people in the United Kingdom.

Net capital outflow in Russia exceeds 38 billion dollars in 2010

MOSCOW, 14 Jan— Net capital outflow from Russia amounted to 38.3 billion US dollars in 2010, about one third less than in 2009, RBC news agency reported Thursday.

According to the Russia’s Central Bank data, in the fourth quarter of 2010 alone, about 22.7 billion dollars left Russia.

In 2009, some 56.9 billion dollars left Russia and in 2008 the amount was 129.9 billion.

The Russian Central Bank earlier forecast that capital net outflow would not exceed 25 to 30 billion dollars in 2010.

The Ministry of Economic Development estimated the figure would be equal to a maximum of 25 billion dollars.

The bank expects the tide to turn in 2011 with private capitals inflow to outweigh outflow.

The last year when private foreign capital net inflow was registered was 2007, when 83.1 billion dollars of investments remained in the Russian economy.

Brazil to create three mln jobs in 2011

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Jan— Brazil’s Labour Minister Carlos Lupi said Thursday the country will generate 3 million jobs this year.

The minister attributed the high job creation to the pre-salt oil exploration, infrastructure projects for the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games, as well as the government’s Growth Acceleration Programme.

Lupi said the job creation figure reached 2.55 million in 2010. If the minister’s estimate is consistent with the official figure to be released next week, it will be the highest job generation in Brazilian history, up 150 percent from last year—Xinhua
Flu outbreak claims three lives in LA

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan—A flu outbreak claimed at least three lives in the past two weeks in the Los Angeles County, marking the first deaths of the 2010-11 influenza season, authorities announced on Thursday.

“...the outbreak,” said Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, director of the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. “We’re approaching the time of year when we typically see peak numbers of flu cases. There is still time to get a flu shot or the flu mist nasal spray vaccine to protect yourself, your loved ones and those around you from this illness.”

Fielding said the flu season can continue to circulate as late as May. The three people who died were two women, a 29-year-old and a 4-year-old boy, according to the department.

Health officials said the adults were both obese, which is a newly identified risk factor for complications from influenza. It was unknown if they had been vaccinated.—Xinhua

Britain’s swine flu death toll rises to 112

LONDON, 14 Jan—The death toll due to swine flu in Britain has risen to 112, according to a government report.

The figure went up on the 50 cases reported last week and includes six children under five, nine aged 15 to 64, 64. The Independent reported.

The number of people in critical care, however, has risen from 750 to 661. The department of health has insisted independent expert advice was “absolutely clear” that children who do not have risk factors should not be vaccinated.

Pharmacy giant Boots also revealed its stores have “very limited” stocks of the winter flu jab and said there was currently no hope of replenishing its supplies.—Internet

WikiLeaks gives $15,000 for accused leaker defence

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—WikiLeaks has contributed $15,000 to help defend a junior US soldier accused of leaking to hundreds of thousands of sensitive diplomatic cables and other secret documents, a support group said on Thursday.

The website’s contribution would help pay lawyers representing US Army Specialist Bradley Manning, a former intelligence analyst suspected of obtaining the classified video of a 2007 helicopter attack that killed a dozen people in Baghdad, including two Reuters employees, and downloading more than 250,000 US State Department documents.

“This donation from WikiLeaks is vital to our efforts to ensure Bradley receives a fair trial,” Mike Gogulski, a founder of the Bradley Manning Defence Network, said in a statement.—Reuters

Brisbane flood clean-up starts as damage emerges

BRISBANE, 14 Jan—The full horror of the devastation wrought by floods in Brisbane emerged Friday as waters drained from the swamped Australian City but barreled on towards small towns downstream.

Residents of the country’s third-largest city nervously returned to see what remained of their homes and businesses as the muddy brown waters that had covered buildings up to their roofs dropped to reveal their terrible handiwork.

“There is a lot of heartache and grief as people start to see for the first time what has happened to their homes and their streets,” Queensland State Premier Anna Bligh said.

“In some cases we have street, after street, after street where every home has been inundated to the roof level affecting thousands of people.

“I encourage people please to make an effort to help your friends, help your families,” she urged as horrified residents slapped out thick carpets of stinking mud from their homes and businesses. The jagged remains of boats, parts of buildings and other large pieces of debris lay on mud banks left by the water throughout the stricken city.

Man threatens to blow himself up in London

LONDON, 14 Jan—Many areas of central London had to be shut down Thursday after a man broke into a shop and threatened to blow himself up.

The unnamed man, who broke into a shop in Regent Street, was arrested following a four-hour stand-off with armed officers, The Sun reported.

Police teams rushed to an Accessorize store at 12.20 am following an emergency call and found the man inside, threatening to harm himself.

The area around the female fashion shop, near the Oxford Circus underground station, was immediately cordoned off.

Police negotiators attempted to resolve the situation, and the man finally left the commercial property just after 5 am. He was searched and arrested.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said, “Police were called to a commercial premises in Regent Street shortly after 00.20 am today following an alarm activation. A man has now been detained and is currently in custody.”

Spain seizes cocaine hidden in plastic bananas

MADRID, 14 Jan—Police in Spain seized 162 kilos (356 pounds) of cocaine hidden inside plastic bananas that had been concealed in a 20-tonne shipment of real fruit from Ecuador, the interior ministry said on Thursday.

“The imitations with the drugs, which were very similar to real bananas, were hidden amongst a shipment of real fruit,” it said in a statement. The cocaine was wrapped in clear plastic sheets inside the fake green bananas, pictures released by police showed.

Four people were arrested in the operation surrounding the shipment which arrived at the Mediterranean port of Algeciras from Guayaquil.

Resident paddle past a flooded house in the Brisbane suburb of Saint Lucia on 13 Jan, 2011. Flood water in Australia’s third-biggest city peaked below feared catastrophic levels on Thursday but Brisbane and other devastated regions faced years of rebuilding and even the threat of fresh floods.—INTERNET

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“I encourage people please to make an effort to help your friends, help your families,” she urged as horrified residents slapped out thick carpets of stinking mud from their homes and businesses. The jagged remains of boats, parts of buildings and other large pieces of debris lay on mud banks left by the water throughout the stricken city.

Flu outbreak claims three lives in LA

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan—A flu outbreak claimed at least three lives in the past two weeks in the Los Angeles County, marking the first deaths of the 2010-11 influenza season, authorities announced on Thursday.

“This is an unfortunate reminder that flu is a serious, potentially deadly illness that is also vaccine-preventable,” said Dr Jonathan E Fielding, director of the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. “We’re approaching the time of year when we typically see peak numbers of flu cases. There is still time to get a flu shot or the flu mist nasal spray vaccine to protect yourself, your loved ones and those around you from this illness.”

Fielding said the flu season can continue to circulate as late as May. The three people who died were two women, a 29-year-old and a 4-year-old boy, according to the department.

Health officials said the adults were both obese, which is a newly identified risk factor for complications from influenza. It was unknown if they had been vaccinated.—Xinhua

Britain’s swine flu death toll rises to 112

LONDON, 14 Jan—The death toll due to swine flu in Britain has risen to 112, according to a government report.

The figure went up on the 50 cases reported last week and includes six children under five, nine aged 15 to 64, 64. The Independent reported.

The number of people in critical care, however, has risen from 750 to 661. The department of health has insisted independent expert advice was “absolutely clear” that children who do not have risk factors should not be vaccinated.

Pharmacy giant Boots also revealed its stores have “very limited” stocks of the winter flu jab and said there was currently no hope of replenishing its supplies.—Internet

WikiLeaks gives $15,000 for accused leaker defence

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—WikiLeaks has contributed $15,000 to help defend a junior US soldier accused of leaking to hundreds of thousands of sensitive diplomatic cables and other secret documents, a support group said on Thursday.

The website’s contribution would help pay lawyers representing US Army Specialist Bradley Manning, a former intelligence analyst suspected of obtaining the classified video of a 2007 helicopter attack that killed a dozen people in Baghdad, including two Reuters employees, and downloading more than 250,000 US State Department documents.

“This donation from WikiLeaks is vital to our efforts to ensure Bradley receives a fair trial,” Mike Gogulski, a founder of the Bradley Manning Defence Network, said in a statement.—Reuters

Brisbane, 14 Jan—The full horror of the devastation wrought by floods in Brisbane emerged Friday as waters drained from the swamped Australian City but barreled on towards small towns downstream.

Residents of the country’s third-largest city nervously returned to see what remained of their homes and businesses as the muddy brown waters that had covered buildings up to their roofs dropped to reveal their terrible handiwork.

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Beside efforts for manufacturing quality...

(from page 1) and officials conducted them round the exhibition in which locations of Kyunchaung, Myanmar, Ywama, Mann (Minbu), Shwetaung, Thaton, Thakayta, Ahlon and Hlawga gas-fired power plants, age of the plants, value of machines and repair cost, generating capacity and kinds of machines, spare parts and machine parts and locally-manufactured spare parts were displayed.

Next, the Prime Minister observed machine parts and spare parts displayed by companies and tools and materials used in construction of power grid by departments under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 and research-related documents.

At the briefing hall of the Ahlon gas-fired power plant, the Minister explained that, in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the ceremony was held with the aim of minimizing use of foreign exchange and ensuring wide development of businesses which are manufacturing import-substitute materials.

Managing Director U Aung Than Oo of MEPE explained purpose of organizing the ceremony, display of 295 machines and parts and spare parts, facts about the nine gas-fired power plants across the nation, maintenance works, small, medium and large scale repair works, maintenance and repair costs and facts about the major machine parts of gas turbines and Deputy Chief Engineer Dr Maung Maung Kyaw, facts about construction of 230 KV Hline river crossing Ahlon Twin Bundle Double Circuit power grid.

In response to the report, the Prime Minister said only if an industrial country can be built, will a peaceful, modern and developed nation enjoying with the people enjoying improvement in per capita income and living conditions.

The major need for an industrialized nation is energy. So, four sectors namely exploration, production, distribution and consumption must go together in order to meet the increasing energy need.

Rich in natural resources, the country is striving its utmost for extended exploration of oil and gas in both inland and offshore areas. Now it is heartening to note that a desirable amount of gas deposits have been discovered and explored in the inland gas exploration sector. The natural gas explored is being exported and used for domestic electricity consumption. Therefore, the role of gas-fired power plants has become important for electricity generation.

In the nation, the nine gas-fired power plants built in Kyunchaung, Myanmar, Mann, Shwetaung, Thaton, Hlawga, Ahlon, Ywama and Thakayta are distributing electricity with generating capacity of 702.5 megawatts.

With the increasing population, improving living conditions and changing lifestyle of the people, the electricity demand is rising enormously year by year. So, full use of all generated electricity must be made. But it will lead to decline in mechanical capacity. Hence, service and maintenance tasks are to be carried out systematically.

As those turbines have been used for many years, the number of machines changed has become large and their costs high. So, efforts are to be made to manufacture machine parts locally rather than importing. Beside efforts for locally manufacturing quality machine parts, it is necessary to build a whole industry on the nation.

For availability of skilled workers, arrangements are to be made to conduct training courses both practically and theoretically. Only then, can self-reliant factories and workshops with local experts and skilled workers be built.

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Malaysian PM felicitates Prime Minister U Thein Sein

NAW PAR TAW, 14 Jan—The following is the message of felicitations from Dato Sri Mohd Najib, Prime Minister of Malaysia to U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 63rd Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Your Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have the pleasure to extend to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes.

It is my sincere hope that the cordial ties of friendship between Malaysia and the Union of Myanmar will continue to be strengthened in the coming years on issues of common interest for the benefit of both our countries.
To build modern, developed nation...

The Prime Minister viewed health care service around the hospital. In his address, the Prime Minister said that people of Ayeyawady Region can receive medical treatment in their own regions, so they will enjoy better health care than ever before.

Since its assumption of State duties, the government has been working hard, upholding Our Three Main National Causes for non-disintegration of the Union, perpetuation of national solidarity, and State stability, community peace and the rule of law. In the meantime, it has been constructing infrastructural buildings in the transport, education and health sectors across the nation for national economic growth and equitable development of all parts of the Union. Like Ayeyawady Delta, the remaining regions of the Union are enjoying unprecedented development.

So far, the government has set up five 200-bed hospitals, three 100-bed hospitals, five 50-bed hospitals, 16 25-bed hospitals, 61 station hospitals, 203 health care centres, 42 maternal and child health care centres, three rural health care centres, nine school health care groups, one 16-bed traditional medicine hospital, and 31 traditional health care centres to improve the health standard of Ayeyawady Region. Two training schools of nursing and one midwifery school have been established in the region to enable local youths to pursue medicine in their own regions and to take part in community health care.

For uplift of health and fitness standard of the entire people, the government has improved the health infrastructure and skills of medical staff. As a result, the people enjoy longer lifespan; the nation does not see epidemics as many as in the past; maternal and child death rate is falling; and the people have come to gain a lot of knowledge of health. Myanmar is rich in natural resources. So, to build a modern, developed nation just calls for hardworking, healthy human resources. Medical staff on their part have to do constant study on health care and enhance public knowledge of healthy habits.

Medical staff also have to provide best health care so as to win satisfaction and reliance from patients and to boost giving health talks down to rural areas. Medical staff in Ayeyawady Region took a role in community health care on floating hospitals and itinerant clinics in post-Nargis period. So, they are believed to know the importance of health care down to the grassroots level.

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Aerial view of 100-bed Bogale Township People’s Hospital.—MNA

Bogale Township hospital was a 50-bed facility previously. It was ravaged in the catastrophe. Apart from the newly-opened hospital, the township has already had three station hospitals, seven health care centres, and 33 sub-health care centres. Therefore, the health standard of more than 500,000 locals in the 10 wards and 575 villages of the township will get higher.

Labutta Hospital (200-bed), Pyappon Hospital (200-bed) and Pyinsalu Township branch hospital (25-bed) were opened in storm-affected areas in Ayeyawady Region. This year, Mawlamyine Region hospital and this hospital were opened. Residents can take great pride in that achievement. Local people of Ayeyawady Region can receive medical treatment in their own regions, so they will enjoy better health care than ever before.

the hospital is a result of the rehabilitation tasks in Ayeyawady Region in the post-Nargis period. The facility also reflects resilience shown by the dwellers of the Delta in the natural disaster, and the guidance of the Head of State on replacing earth bricks with stone ones for better conditions of the storm-hit areas.
To build modern, developed nation...

(From page 8)

For improvement of the health sector, the government has built a large number of health care facilities and installed more and more health staff. So, health staff are to work to their utmost in order that the entire people can equally benefit from the health facilities, and community health care covers the whole region including rural areas. Medical staff are on duty round the clock to improve mental and physical health of the people. So, they are to try to become reliable personnel for the public.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on medical staff to constantly maintain development facilities and sound foundations including rural areas. Medical staff are on duty round the clock to improve mental and physical health of the people, and to do their bid with firm resolution in pursuing the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Chairman U Tay Za of Htoo Trading Co Ltd that had undertaken the hospital project handed over documents to Deputy Director-General of the Health Department Dr Kyee Myint; and five sets of IP Star System Computer worth K 40 million, one 100 KVA generator worth K 12 million, furniture, hospital equipment, an ambulance worth K 35 million, and trust funds of K 30 million to Medical Superintendent Dr Than Htay Aung.

Bogale Township People’s Hospital on the 31.9-acre plot has a floor area of 57,440 square feet. The hospital built by Htoo Trading Co., Ltd. has a main building and three wards along with an outpatient ward, GP ward, obstetric, gynecological and paediatric ward, and neurosurgical ward.

It used to be a 50-bed facility and was hit hard by the cyclone Nargis. So, the government upgraded it to a 100-bed hospital.

SSA-S (Wanyein) armed group...

(From page 16)

without racial and religious discrimination which they have expected. He pointed out that now is the best time for all national brethren to step forwards the new democratic nation in line with the seven-step Road Map.

In conclusion, he expressed thanks to the government and local people for forgiving their past wrong acts and warmly welcoming them.

Daw Aye Moh Moh Tun spoke words of greetings in Myanmar language and Daw Nan Mway Phoung in Shan dialect. Next, SSA-S (Wanyein) armed group handed over arms ammunitions and military equipment to the commander. The commander then presented cash assistance, food and construction materials to the armed group.

Commander Brig-Gen Hsan Oo accepts arms and ammunition from SSA-S (Wanyein). —MNA

There are 38 armed members and 21 family members in the SSA-S (Wanyein) armed group, bringing along with them 33 assorted guns and 710 ammunitions and 34 magazines. —MNA
U Khin Maung Tin accredited to Japan

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—**The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has accredited U Khin Maung Tin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Japan.—MNA

U Tin Yu concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Morocco

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—**The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has concurrently appointed U Tin Yu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Morocco.—MNA

Energy Minister visits Myitnge Bridge Project holding China-Myanmar gas pipeline

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—**Minister for Energy U Lwin Thi visited construction site of the bridge holding the natural gas pipeline across Myitnge River near Kywenaapha Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region yesterday. It is the part of Myanmar-China natural gas pipeline jointly implemented by Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and CNPC, South East Asia Pipeline Company. The minister heard reports on progress in construction of the bridge and urged personnel concerned to work hard with full use of machine power and manpower for timely completion of the work as fixed in the agreement. The minister then inspected construction of bored piles, welding of steel frames and viewed steel pylons and other construction materials. The facility will be 904 long including the approach way and clearance 33 feet. It is being constructed, divided into three phases and aimed to be completed at the end of August this year.—MNA

Minister U Lwin Thi inspects Myitinge River-spanning gas pipeline project in Patheingyi Township.—MNA

__Air China sees 2010 net profit more than doubling__

**SHANGHAI, 14 Jan—**Air China shares rose Friday after the flag carrier said its estimated 2010 net profit more than doubled from last year, as the nation’s passenger and cargo traffic continued to surge.

The flagship carrier, which had a 2009 net profit of 5.03 billion yuan ($759.8 million) did not provide a specific earnings figure for 2010 in the preliminary forecast filed to the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Shanghai-listed shares of Air China rose 0.84 percent to 13.2 yuan in late morning trading. “Benefiting from the rapid growth of the macro-economy of China and the steady recovery of the global economy, the company was able to seize the market opportunity of a strong demand for both passenger and cargo transportation services,” it said in a statement.—Internet

__Sleep disorder in pregnancy increases risk of postpartum depression__

**HELSEINKI, 14 Jan—**The result of a new study indicates that sleep disorder of mothers in their pregnancy will increase the risk of postpartum depression and hamper the development of newborn babies’ sleep-wake rhythm, said the Academy of Finland in a press release on Wednesday.

According to the study, the sleep disorder of new babies and their mothers always interact with each other. The baby’s night waking always leads to the mother’s increasing melanochies and depression symptoms. Meanwhile, the exhausted mother will often fail to help her baby develop regular sleep-wake rhythm, which makes the problem drag on.

Experts of the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare thus pointed out that enough sleep for women should be guaranteed as early as in pregnancy. On the other hand, the development of a baby’s sleep-wake rhythm should be supported as soon as possible after childbirth.

According to the Academy of Finland, chronic insomnia is fairly common among Finnish adults. A survey shows that 52 percent of Finnish women said that they do not have enough bedtime, while 24 percent face lack of sleep at night.—Xinhua

__Hotel fire kills at least ten in central China__

**CHANGSHA, 14 Jan—**At least ten people were killed and eight others injured in a hotel fire early Thursday in Changsha, capital city of central China’s Hunan Province, local fire fighting department said.

The fire occurred at 0:55 am in a small hotel in Yuelu District of Changsha.—Xinhua

__Greek police nab four terror suspects__

**Xinhua**

**ATHENS, 14 Jan—**Greek police have detained four persons suspected of terrorism links, local media reported Thursday.

The four Greek youths, at the age of 23-27, were detained in apartments in three Athens Districts. They are believed to belong to the Greek guerrilla group “Conspiracy of the Nuclei of Fire.”

__2010 ties 2005 as warmest year on record worldwide__

**WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—**It’s a tie: Last year equaled 2005 as the warmest year on record, government climate experts reported on Wednesday.

The average worldwide temperature was 1.12 degrees Fahrenheit (0.62 degree Celsius) above normal last year. That’s the same as six years ago, the National Climatic Data Centre announced.

Climate experts have become increasingly concerned about rising global temperatures over the last century. Most atmospheric scientists attribute the change to gases released into the air by industrial processes and gasoline-burning engines.

In addition, the Global Historical Climatology Network said Wednesday that last year was the wettest on record. Rain and snowfall patterns varied greatly around the world.

“The warmth this year reinforces the notion that we are seeing climate change,” said David Easterling, chief of scientific services at the climatic data centre. Nine of the 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 2000, he noted. —Internet
Latest jobless rate means Australia’s economy remains strong

Canberra, 14 Jan—Australian Treasurer Wayne Swan said Thursday that the latest figures, which showed lowest jobless rate in two years, means the nation’s economy remained strong.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), unemployment rate for December was 5.0 percent, seasonally adjusted, compared with an unrevised 5.2 percent in November.

Swan welcomed the latest jobless figure, saying that in 2010, an extra 364,000 Australians gained the security of a job with the ability to bring home a regular pay packet to their families.

“It’s a great result for our country and one that sets us apart from the rest of the developed world,” Swan told reporters in Canberra. “The strength of the jobs market can give confidence about our country’s economic outlook as communities and businesses begin the long task of rebuilding from the floods.” Meanwhile, Jobs Minister Chris Evans said there would be a short-term jobs boost in the Queensland floods recovery effort, as there will be a demand for a lot of construction work, and that rebuilding process will no doubt generate jobs, particularly in the construction areas.—Internet

3G coverage overtakes fixed broadband in Brazil

Brasilia, 14 Jan— The number of 3G users in Brazil reached 20.6 million in 2010, approximately 50 percent higher than that of fixed broadband Internet users, according to a new survey.

The 3G network, including smartphone and modems, which was first introduced in Brazil about three years ago, added 11.9 million new users in 2010, the Brazilian Association of Telecommunication (Telebrasil) said Thursday on its latest survey.

“In the smartphone segment, the growth reached 257 percent in 2010, increasing from four million in December 2009 to 14.6 million by the end of last month,” it said. According to the survey, fixed broadband Internet users totaled 13.6 million in 2010, up 20 percent year on year.

To further expand Internet coverage, the Brazilian government launched an ambitious plan in May with the aim to triple high speed Internet access by 2014, which it said would benefit 40 million people by charging a low monthly fee between 8.5 and 20 US dollars.—Xinhua

Facebook inches closer to becoming a diary with new memories feature

New York, 14 Jan—Facebook is reportedly testing out a “Memorable Stories” application that collects users’ status updates throughout the year to give you a text flashback of your own thoughts.

According to select users who have seen the application pop up on their profiles, the feature shows up as a sidebar when you view a specific post. Instead of ordering the stories in chronological order like Facebook does now, users are given a seemingly random anthology of updates. You’re also able to eliminate entries you don’t want to read to see another.

Facebook introduced its “Photo Memories” application recently, which was met with some criticism. After users complained about being shown photos of exes, Facebook decided to eliminate pictures between any other user you had previously been listed on the site as in a relationship with. It’s safe to say this new feature could introduce some similar regulation. Those who have seen the application (including AllFacebook) on their pages found it went back as far as 2008. It’s been intermittently showing up on profiles, so keep your eyes open for it on your Facebook page.—Internet

Brits spend more on wine than the French

London, 14 Jan— Britons buy more wine than the French and drank nearly two billion bottles in 2010.

Wine consumption in UK rose by 1.1 percent in 2010 to 1.765 billion bottles, making Britain the world’s largest wine importer, reports the Daily Express.

Total sales reached 8.642 billion pounds-more than France-with consumption rising by 6.6 percent since 2005. According to figures since 2005 compiled by International Wine and Spirit Research, white wine is still Britons’ tipple of choice, accounting for 44 percent of consumption.

Meanwhile, red wine sales fell by 7.7 percent over the same period, but fizzy wines and champagne, are up by 16.1 percent.

Vodka is the nation’s favourite spirit, but sales of tequila shot up 33 percent, while bourbon consumption is expected to double by 2014.—Internet

China arrests, prosecutes 96 people for using tainted milk powder

Beijing, 14 Jan— Ninety-six people are in police custody, awaiting prosecution or in prison for illegally using melamine-tainted milk powder, said the State Council’s Food Safety Commission here Thursday.

They were found to have used melamine-tainted milk powder as raw material to produce dairy products or sell such dairy products, said a statement issued by the commission. Among them, 17 had been convicted, including two people sentenced to life in prison, the statement said.

Chinese authorities since July last year have cracked down on the use of undisposed tainted milk powder produced before the melamine scandal of 2008. About 2,132 tonnes of melamine-tainted milk powder was seized in the latest crackdown, the statement said.

Loopholes in the quality control system of dairy products were identified in the campaign, the statement said.—Xinhua

More than 500 dead in Brazil’s worst-ever disaster

Teresopolis, 14 Jan— Brazil is suffering its worst-ever natural disaster after mudslides near Rio de Janeiro that killed more than 500 people, according to the latest toll Friday.

Mcuipulal officials in the Serrana region just north of Rio told reporters that at least 506 people were killed, surpassing the 437 killed in a 1967 mudslide tragedy that “up until now seen as the biggest (disaster) in Brazil,” according to the news website G1.

It was feared more bodies were yet to be discovered as rescuers finally arrived in villages cut off because of destroyed roads and bridges in the region.

Efforts to locate survivors and bodies were going on under the risk of further mudslides, as rain continued to fall on the waterlogged region, making it even more unstable.

“It’s very overwhelming. The scene are very shocking,” President Dilma Rousseff said after visiting the area Thursday. She pledged “strong action” by her government, which has already released 470 million dollars in initial emergency aid and sent seven tons of medical supplies.—Internet

Rescue workers search for victims of a landslide in Teresopolis on 12 Jan, 2011.—Xinhua

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This photo taken on 15 November, 2010 shows the chief executive and president of Philippine carrier Cebu Pacific, Lance Gokongwei, during a press briefing in Manila.—Internet

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China first in wind power capacity

BEIJING, 14 Jan—China has surpassed the United States as the country with the largest wind power installation in the world, China’s State-run news agency Xinhua reports.

China installed 16 gigawatts of wind power capacity in 2010, a 62 percent increase from the previous year, said the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association, Xinhua reports.

That brings the country’s total installed capacity to 41.8 gigawatts, giving China — the world’s top emitter of greenhouse gases — the potential to replace 31.3 million tons of coal, slashing emissions of more than 90 million tons of carbon dioxide, Xinhua reports.—Internet

Police are given instructions as reporters tour the Tianwei Wind Power assembly factory in Baoding City, Hebei Province on 24 June, 2009.—Reuters

Oil pipeline irks Nebraska lawmaker

LINCOLN, 14 Jan—Legislation introduced in Nebraska is meant to allay public concerns over plans to build an oil pipeline through the state, a lawmaker said.

TransCanada’s plans to build the Keystone XL through Nebraska sparked concern because of the potential for environmental damage in the north of the state where a key aquifer sits, the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star reports.

Annette Dubas, D-Nebraska State Sen. Annette Dubas, D-Frederick, said the pipeline would require companies wanting to build an oil pipeline through the state to file an application with the state and country officials.—Internet

Room lights may affect sleep, hurt health

BOSTON, 14 Jan—Bedtime electrical lighting may affect sleep quality and health — including blood pressure.

A spokesman said there was enough money in the system to maintain the present network of children’s centres. However, in Stock-on-Trent, seven out of 16 children’s centres are threatened with closure as the council attempts to save £12.6m from its children’s services budget.—Internet

Children’s centres offer childcare, parenting advice and other services.—Internet

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Many children’s centres 'under threat of closure'

LONDON, 14 Jan—Every council in England is likely to have to close at least one Sure Start Children’s Centre because of funding cuts, it is claimed.

Many more are earmarked for closure in some areas, say organizations working in the 3,500 centres. The government wants to target the centre’s parenting support services at the most deprived children.

A spokesman said there was enough money in the system to maintain the present network of children’s centres. However, in Stock-on-Trent, seven out of 16 children’s centres are threatened with closure as the council attempts to save £12.6m from its children’s services budget.—Internet

Children’s centres offer childcare, parenting advice and other services.—Internet

MISS NORTH CAROLINA Adrienne Core (R) was named on Tuesday night’s preliminary Talent winner and Miss National Miss Universe Festival was named the preliminary Lifestyle and Fitness award winner during the first night of competition of the 2011 Miss America Pageant presented by DSF at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, on 11 Jan, 2011.—INTERNET

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Fox shoots man

A wounded fox shot its would be killer in Belarus by pulling the trigger on the hunter’s gun as the pair scuffled after the man tried to finish the animal off with the butt of the rifle, media said Thursday.

The unnamed hunter, who had approached the fox after wounding it to a distance, was in hospital with a leg wound, while the fox made its escape, media said, citing prosecutors from the Grodno region.

“The animal fiercely resisted and in the struggle accidentally pulled the trigger with its paw,” one prosecutor was quoted as saying.

Fox hunting is popular in the picturesque farming region of northwestern Belarus which borders Poland.

Georgian women offered ‘rent-a-husband’ service

A new business in Georgia is offering single women who need household help the chance to hire ‘husbands’ by the hour but the company’s owner admits that all that some of his customers need is love.

“Our service is here to assist those women who need help with tough housekeeping tasks, such as for example minor repair works,” company owner Beso Medelishvili said.

But he said that many women had been confused by the company’s name — A Husband for an Hour Limited — and had been asking for something more. Since going into business in the ex-Soviet republic two months ago, the number of calls from women seeking a more intimate hour has significantly exceeded the orders for the company’s actual services.

“So we have to explain to them that our guys are not male prostitutes,” Medelishvili said.

“They can help with repairing a leaking tap, but their job description says nothing about providing affection.”

Hiring out a ‘husband’ from the Tbilisi-based company costs 17 dollars (13 euros) an hour, Medelishvili said.

Box Office Preview: Most green going to ‘Hornet’

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — The movie business has suffered a down streak at the box office for nine straight weeks but the unluckiest of super heroes will attempt to save the day this holiday weekend as Seth Rogen stars in the big-screen version of “The Green Hornet.”

Industry buzz has the title role will draw audiences looking for a decidedly tongue-in-cheek action experience. Combine that with the addition of numerous IMAX screens, a Martin Luther King weekend release that also takes advantage of the less competitive January marketplace and “The Green Hornet” should become the first official box-office hit of 2011.

The teacher said the club has proven especially beneficial to “reluctant readers.”

“In doing research, I found what an up and coming thing (comic books) are in education. They’re getting someone excited to read,” he said.

The teacher said club members have also made their own comic books and he has brought in local artists to speak to the group.

“It’s my passion to get graphic novels into education,” he said.

While it’s fashionable these days to have the “something more.”

RJ Casey, a fifth-grade teacher at Adolph Link Elementary School in Elk Grove, said the size of the comic book club he heads after school led him to seek the grant as a way to augment the school’s supply of 70 graphic novels to bolster interest in reading, the Chicago Tribune reported Thursday.

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Real fight back in stormy Spanish Cup derby

MAÑIZZ, 14 Jan — Real Madrid fought back from a goal down to defeat city rivals Atletico 3-1 in the first leg of the Spanish Cup quarter-finals on Thursday.

Atletico were ahead after just seven minutes at the Santiago Bernabeu when Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan was on target following a bright burst from Sergio Aguero which was ended by goalkeeper Iker Casillas’s clumsy challenge.

But Sergio Ramos powered in a header from an Angel Di Maria corner in the 14th minute to bring the home side level before Cristiano Ronaldo and Mesut Ozil added second half strikes to give Real breathing space ahead of the second leg next week. — Internet

Buffon back as Juventus ease into last eight

ROME, 14 Jan — Gianluigi Buffon made his comeback after seven months out as Juventus moved into the Coppa Italia quarter-finals with a 2-0 victory over Catania on Thursday. Serbia winger Milos Krasic netted the opener on 34 minutes and Italy wideman Simone Pepe sealed the victory nine minutes after the restart.

In a difficult season in which Juve crashed out of the Europa League in the group stages and sit down in sixth in Serie A, nine points off leaders AC Milan, this competition represents their best chance of silverware. — Internet

Messi dismisses talk of Barcelona Ballon d’Or rift

BARCELONA, 14 Jan — Argentine star Lionel Messi on Thursday dismissed talk that defeating his Barcelona teammates Andres Iniesta and Xavi in the race for the Ballon d’Or had strained his relationship with the Spanish pair.

“I don’t care what people say. I have the respect and the recognition of my team mates. All my colleagues congratulated me and were happy for me and that is what is the most important for me,” he told a news conference. “I am aware that without my teammates I could not win these prizes. We know what our relation-ship is and how we get along. The relationship is the same. I am fine with Andres and with Xavi. I have a good relationship with both.”

Messi was selected ahead of his two Barce- lona teammates at a cer-eemony in Switzerland on Monday. It was the sec-ond straight year that he collected the prize.

Lahm urges Bayern to cut Dortmund’s lead

MUNICH, 14 Jan — Bayern Munich return to Bundesliga action on Sat- urday with star defender Philipp Lahm. — Internet

BERLIN, 14 Jan — Bayern Munich return to Bundesliga action on Sat- urday with star defender Philipp Lahm urging his side to take their chance to close the 14-point gap behind leaders Dortmund. Defending champions Bayern are fifth in the table and travel to Wolfsburg for their first league game of 2011, while Dortmund have a tough return to the league at Leverkusen, who are in joint second, on Friday.

“We have to use this chance in Wolfsburg,” said Bayern star Lahm. “We have the opportunity to close the gap and we are the better side.”

But play-makers Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery back from injury, head coach Louis van Gaal has lots of options with just three players unavailable — Germany midfielder Toni Kroos (foot), Croatia striker Ivica Olic (knee) and defender Emson Braathen (ill). Van Gaal has already an-nounced a change in goal with goalkeeper Thomas Kraft being handed his Bundesliga debut.

Jordan dump Saudi Arabia out of Asian Cup

DOHA, 14 Jan — Jordan dumped three-times champions Saudi Arabia out of the Asian Cup on Thursday with a 1-0 vic-tory courtesy of a goalkeeping howler by Waleed Abdullah.

It has been a traumatic few days for Saudi Ara-bia, whose quest for a first Asian Cup since 1996 got off to a disastrous start when they were beaten 2-1 by outsiders Syria in their opening game on Sunday. Portuguese Jose Peseiro, who had already been under severe pres-sure for failing to get Saudi Arabia to the World Cup, was promptly sacked as coach and re-placed by Nasser Al Johar.

Talks needed with FIFA to avoid 2022 clash

LAUSANNE, 14 Jan — Jacques Rogge said the IOC and FIFA should hold “sensible discussions” to avoid any scheduling conflicts between the 2022 Winter Olympics and World Cup if the Qatar tournament is switched from the summer to winter.

The International Olympic Commit-tee’s president on Thursday said rela-tions with Sepp Blatter are “excellent” after the FIFA president called him to apolo-gize for making derogatory com-ments about the IOC last week.

Rogge also hailed progress in negoti-a-tions with the US Olympic Commit-tee on a new revenue-sharing deal and said the IOC will begin talks soon with American broadcasters seeking to bid on the next set of lucrative broadcast rights. He voiced hope that London will keep the Olympic running track after the 2012 Games. — Internet

Play washed out at Sony Open in Hawaii

GONOLUUN, 14 Jan — All those rookiers ready to start their PGA Tour ca- reers will have to wait an-other day. The opening round of the Sony Open, the first full-field event of the season, was washed out Thursday because of heavy overnight rain that left too much water on Waialae Country Club. Once the sun came up and officials could see, it was a quick decision. Some fairways and bunkers were filled with large puddles.

“The golf course is under water.” PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said. “We’ve got some more rain coming, and we just didn’t think that we could get it in tour-nament condition today.”

The plan is to play the opening two rounds on Friday and Saturday, with 36 holes on Sunday.
Hall of Famer Robinson released from hospital

PHOENIX, 14 Jan—Baseball Hall of Famer Frank Robinson was released from an Arizona hospital on Thursday after being admitted earlier in the day with an irregular heartbeat.

Robinson, 75 and a senior vice president of Major League operations, became dizzy during a meeting of owners and general managers near Phoenix, Major League Baseball said on its official website (www.mlb.com). But after a battery of tests, Robinson was released and allowed to return to his hotel.

“The doctor said I was a little dry — not dehydrated — and my heart rate was 190 (beats per minute),” Robinson told MLB.com. “I began getting concerned sitting there when my heart started to beat faster. I thought it was kind of temporary and I tried to wait it out, but it just kept going and going. Finally I just decided to get out of there and have it checked. And I’m glad I did.”

Robinson played 22 seasons in the big leagues and became the first African American manager in the Major Leagues when the Cleveland Indians hired him as a player-manager in 1975—Reuters

WEATHER

Friday, 14th January, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in upper Sagaing Region, weather has been partly cloudy over Kachin and Rakhine States, Taninthayi Region and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (6°C) below January average temperature in Chin and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions and about January average temperature in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), Pylaung (1°C), Loltem (2°C), Namhsan (3°C) and Heho (4°C).

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 13-1-2011 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 14-1-2011 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 14-1-2011 was (73%).

Rainfall on 14-1-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (1.97) inches at Mingaladon, (1.42) inches at Kaba Aye and (2.95) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 15-1-2011.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 15th January 2011: Light rain are possible to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and weather will be partly cloudy over Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty (40%).

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

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

Forecast for NayPyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-1-2011: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-1-2011: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for third weekend of January 2011: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

SSA-S (Wanyein) armed group exchanges arms for peace

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Jan—Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Hsan Oo attended a ceremony to exchange arms for peace by Shan State (South) SSA-S (Wanyein) armed group at Loilem District playground in Loilem on 11 January.

It was also attended by senior military officers, departmental officials, social organization members, armed group members and their families, and local people.

First, the local people accorded warm welcome to the arms group and their families marching towards the playground.

A member of SSA-S (Wanyein) armed group said they have abandoned themselves to arm struggle line of their own accord. They had first been pleased to hold arms, being unable to distinguish between right and wrong. But, as time went by, they have realized that the arm struggle line is not beneficial to the State, the local people and themselves. So, they have come here to exchange arms for peace understanding the fact that the implementation of the seven-step Road Map laid down by the government is a true democratic way. Moreover, they have witnessed that the government is carrying out development tasks in all parts of the nation without any discrimination. It can also be seen that by establishing development regions across the nation, measures are being taken to develop the education, health, social and transport sectors of Shan State. He continued that they have absolutely trusted in the government’s attitude and goodwill as the 2008 constitution will guarantee the rights (See page 9)