Pyinyaung Bridge commissioned into service in Thazi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—A ceremony to inaugurate Pyinyaung Bridge built by Bridge Construction Project Special Group-3 of Public Works was held on Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road near Pyinyaung Village in Thazi Township this morning. Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint explained the purpose of bridge construction and facts about it.

The station commander, Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works and Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Chairman U Sein Oak formally opened the bridge. The station commander unveiled the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it. Upper structure of Pyinyaung Bridge is of broad rest type and lower structure, of reinforced concrete foundation. The 200 feet long facility has a 24 feet wide motorway and a 3 feet and 4 inches wide pedestrian walkway on either side. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

The minister and party inspected Hakuryu-5. According to the feasibility study, Blocks A-1 and A-3 have 5.353 trillion cubic feet of gas. Now, all responsible are working hard for ensuring cent per cent completion of the project by the mid 2013.—MNA

Pyinyaung Bridge on Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road.—MNA
Value national culture and traditional costumes

Today, the world sees dramatic changes in the communication field. As a result of globalization process, alien cultures are penetrating deep into the nation. Especially, the youth have come under the influence of western music, arts, dances, costumes, ideas and lifestyles.

Attaining knowledge of modern ideas and views is a positive sign. However, it is mandatory for the people of us not to make a carbon copy of alien music and lifestyles and relationship, unwisely thinking that using them is staying in touch with the developments around the world. It is required to keep off decadent costumes which are absolutely against Myanmar lifestyle and culture. Therefore, it is immoral to be in decadent dresses in public areas and on passenger vehicles.

For a nation or a people, to value and preserve traditional costumes is a serious matter. Otherwise, national prestige and integrity will be degrading, and even the nation and the people will become extinct, which the people must be well aware of.

So, each and every citizen has to be equipped with a strong sense of nationalistic spirit. The spirit of cherishing and protecting one’s own race is associated with the image, strength and value of the mass of women. Thus, women have to avoid imitating alien cultures and costumes.

Alien cultures and music are infiltrating the nation through economic and cultural doors. Therefore, it is obligatory for the entire people especially new generations to preserve and promote national prestige and integrity by having a high regard for national culture and traditional costumes.

University of Veterinary Science (1987 Batch) alumni to meet on 26 March

YANGON, 19 Feb—The respect-paying ceremony of old students of the University of Veterinary Science (1987 Batch) will be held at Shwe Shan Kan Restaurant Inya Road here on 26 March.

In order to pay respects to old teachers and to see again happily at the get-together, old students are urged to contact Dr Maung Maung Tun (Ph: 09 5009830), Dr Win Narang (Ph: 09 5123466), Dr Nyaung Shwe (Ph: 061 50927), Dr Kyaw Swe (Ph: 09 2002060), Dr Aung Nyunt Hsan (Ph: 09 5022453), Dr Kyaw Naing Oo (Ph: 09 8628721), Dr Win Win Myint (Ph: 095232244) and Dr Thida Than Maung (Ph: 01 73009789).—MNA

Commander attends Indian Pharma Expo-2011, religious ceremonies

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Jointly-organized by Myanmar-India Business Council and PHARMEXCIL, the opening of Indian Pharma Expo-2011 took place at Traders Hotel here on 17 February, attended by Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than.

After delivering addresses by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajam Seshadri and the chairman of Myanmar Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association, an official gave accounts of the expo.

The commander and the Indian ambassador formally opened the expo and observed the booths of the expo.

Next, the commander attended the first cash donation ceremony for all-round renovation of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) in Mayangon Township.

The commander and officials accepted cash donations of the Ministry of Defence and battalions and regiments and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

Then the commander together with officials attended the 26th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Maha Wizaya Pagoda in Dagon Township and formally opened the Htmane-making competitions.

Commander inspects progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon)

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Chairman of Ayeyawady Region Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Win on 16 February looked into progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) construction project.

An official reported on progress of works.

MAI to run Yangon-Guangzhou, Yangon-Siem Reap

In Danubyu Township, the commander inspected construction of Sakkawt railway station. In Tamya Village of Danubyu Township, the commander cordially met local farmers and view crops plantations.

While in Danubyu, the commander visited the local battalion.—MNA

YANGON, 19 Feb—As new air routes, Myanmar Airways International (MAI) has planned to run flights twice a week from Yangon to Siem Reap (Angkor Wat) of Cambodia every Saturday and Wednesday beginning 23 February, and from Yangon to Guangzhou of China every Thursday and Sunday beginning 3 March.

MAI is running direct and transit flights to and from Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Gaya by three Air Bus A-320 with seating capacity of 160 and one Air Bus A-321 with seating capacity of 220, as charter flight.

In addition, MAI will spread its wings to Tokyo of Japan, Seoul of South Korea, New Delhi of India, Dubai of United Arab Emirates, and Jakarta and Bali of Indonesia in the future.—MNA
At least 18 killed in Afghan bank attack

JALALABAD, 19 Feb—Gunmen and suicide bombers dressed as border police killed at least 18 people and wounded more than 70 in an attack on a bank in the main city in Afghanistan’s east on Saturday, government officials said.

A Reuters witness reported hearing blasts soon after the attack began and gunfire could be heard coming from the branch of the Kabulbank in Jalalabad, which handles salaries for the Afghan police and armed forces, for several hours.

Ahmadzia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the Nangarhar government, said fighting had gone on for several hours and described the scene as “chaotic.”

The motive for the attack was not immediately clear, although coordinated assaults by insurgents against government buildings and military bases have increased in recent years, especially in eastern provinces near the Pakistan border. Insurgents often dress in the uniforms of Afghan security forces, or as women, for such attacks.

The Taleban later claimed responsibility, saying three suicide bombers had entered the bank when Afghan security forces were collecting their salaries. Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a text message to Reuters that “many” members of the security forces had been killed and that fighting was continuing. Violence across Afghanistan reached its worst levels last year since the Taleban were toppled by US-backed Afghan forces in 2001. Both civilian and military casualties hit record levels, despite the presence of about 150,000 foreign troops.—Reuters

Baghdad wants US to pay $1 billion for damage to city

BAGHDAD, 19 Feb—Iraq’s capital wants the United States to apologize and pay $1 billion for the damage done to the city not by bombs but by blast walls and Humvees since the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. The city’s government issued its demands in a statement on Wednesday that said Baghdad’s infrastructure and aesthetics have been seriously damaged by the American military.

“The US forces changed this beautiful city to a camp in an ugly and destructive way, which reflected deliberate ignorance and callousness about the simplest forms of public taste,” the statement said.

“There are huge damage, leading to a loss the Baghdad municipality cannot afford…we demand the American side apologize to Baghdad’s people and pay back these expenses.”—Reuters

Baghdad

Afghan soldier fires on German troops, killing three

PUR-E-KHUMRI, 19 Feb—German soldiers, just back from patrol, had already started shedding their heavy body armour when shots rang out Friday at their coalition base in northern Afghan-istan. An Afghan soldier, a man they thought was on their side, was spraying them with bullets at close range.

The shooter was gunned down, but not before he killed three German soldiers and wounded six others in a tragic shooting that highlights the challenges of trying to train Afghan security forces so foreign troops can go home.

The Afghan soldier in Baghlán’s provincial capital, Pul-e-Khumri, was part of a joint operation between the German and Afghan militaries. Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg told reporters in Berlin.—Internet

Vietnamese crews check the tour boat after it is pulled from the water at the famed Ha Long Bay in northern Quang Ninh province, Vietnam on 18 Feb, 2011, a day after at least 12 sleeping travellers from nine countries drowned when the vessel suddenly filled with water while anchored for the night.—INTERNET

Vietnam detains sunken boat’s captain, crew, owner

HA LONG BAY, (Vietnam), 19 Feb—Police in Vietnam say the captain, crew and owner of a Ha Long Bay tour boat have been detained for questioning two days after 11 foreign vacationers and their Vietnamese guide drowned when the vessel sank as they were sleeping.

Quang Ninh police spokesman Le Thanh Binh says the director of Truong Hai Co, the boat captain and five crew members have been detained.

Vu Van Thinh, chief administrator of Quang Ninh Province, says the government will offer $1,000 to each of the foreign victims’ families and $500 to the nine survivors.

The tour boat company could not be reached Saturday, and it’s unclear if additional compensation will be provided from an insurance company.

The foreign victims from nine countries remain at hospitals in Ha Long Bay.—INTERNET

US in direct talks with Taleban

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—The administrat-ion of President Barack Obama has entered into direct, secret talks with senior Afghan Taleban officials, according to The New Yorker magazine report.

The talks were characterized in the story as an attempt by the Obama administration “to assess which figures in the Taleban’s leadership, if any, might be willing to engage in formal Afghan peace negotiations, and under what conditions.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Steve Coll on Friday wrote that several sources, which were not identified in the story, briefed him about the talks. Earlier Friday, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that only a political solution will end the war in Afghanistan.

“We will never kill enough militants to end this war outright,” Clinton said during a speech in New York. Clinton voiced hope for splitting off rank-and-file Taleban from Al-Qaeda and reconcile those who will renounce violence and accept the Afghan constitution.”—INTERNET

Three die in bank, police station attacks in Nigeria

LAGOS, 19 Feb—Police say they have killed three men after they attacked a bank and a police station in northern Nigeria.

Bauchi state police chief told The Associated Press Friday that both attacks took place at about noon Thursday in the town of Darazo.

Mohammed Inda-bawa said the police killed three suspects including a man who had accidentally detonated a bomb he was holding and blew off his own hand.

He said the man was holding a home-made bomb which he was about to throw at the police station.

Inda-bawa said the police had arrested three suspects, but that it was not immediately clear if any particular group was behind the attacks.

Northern police have previously blamed similar bomb attacks on a radical sect locally known as Boko Haram.—Internet

Two foreign fire fighters look at the burst oil pipelines belonging to the corporation at the Alas Cove in Lagos, destroyed with dynamite by the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) in July 2009.—INTERNET

An Iraqi soldier stands guard as he looks at a damaged concrete wall after a bomb attack in Baghdad on 23 March, 2010.—INTERNET

Two foreign fire fighters look at the burst oil pipelines belonging to the corporation at the Alas Cove in Lagos, destroyed with dynamite by the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) in July 2009.—INTERNET

Afghan police man stand near a crater caused by a powerful explosion in Khost, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 18 Feb, 2011.—INTERNET

Afghan police man stand near a crater caused by a powerful explosion in Khost, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 18 Feb, 2011.—INTERNET
NASA clears shuttle Discovery for 24 Feb launch

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—After an hours-long meeting at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, NASA’s top officials unanimously cleared the space shuttle Discovery for its final launch next Thursday.

NASA shuttle managers made the decision today during the mission’s Flight Readiness Review, where they discussed the current state of Discovery, the International Space Station, and the astronauts who will fly the orbiter on its 39th and final flight.

Discovery is targeted to liftoff from Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral on the same day that the European Space Agency’s Automated Transfer Vehicle-2 (ATV-2) cargo ship is scheduled to arrive and dock at the space station.

Initially, NASA officials thought the space traffic jam would force mission planners to delay Discovery’s launch by one day to 25 Feb. But, NASA officials decided early in today’s meeting that changing the shuttle’s launch date is not necessary.

“Discovery is going to dock about six hours before we launch,” said Mike Moses, NASA’s shuttle integration manager. “We will have tanked the vehicle by then. If they run into a problem during docking, we still might launch that day, we might not. We’ll have to talk about that one in real time.”

Scientists demonstrate that environmental lithium uptake promotes longevity

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—Lithium is one of many nutritional trace elements and is ingested mainly through vegetables and drinking water.

“The scientific community doesn’t know much about the physiological function of lithium”, project manager Ristow says. According to an earlier study from the US, highly concentrated lithium showed to be life-prolonging in C elegans, the Professor of Nutrition in Jena continues. “The dosage that has been analyzed back then, however, is clearly beyond the physiologically relevant range and may be poisonous for human beings”, explains Ristow.

To find out if lithium has a life-prolonging impact at much lower concentrations, the scientists then examined the impact of lithium in a concentration that is regularly found in ordinary tap water.

In a collaborative effort with Japanese colleagues, the Jena scientists analyzed the mortality rate in 18 adjacent Japanese municipalities in relation to the amount of lithium contained in tap water from the respective regions. “We found that the mortality rate was considerably lower in those municipalities with more lithium in the drinking water”, Ristow explains the key finding.

In a second experiment, the Jena scientists examined exactly this range of concentration in the model organism C elegans. The result was confirmed: “The average longevity of the worms is higher after they have been treated with lithium at this dosage”, Ristow says.

Navy breaks world record with futuristic free-electron laser

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—The Navy just set a new world record, a test blast from a new type of laser that can shoot cruise missiles from the sky in seconds with a deadly accuracy that simply doesn’t exist in the military’s vast arsenal today.

And that new record moved them one step closer to proving the “holy grail” of laser guns is real.

To create incredible power requires incredible energy. After all, the more power one puts into a laser accelerator, the more powerful and precise the light beam that comes out on the other end. During a private tour of the Jefferson Lab in Newport News VA, on Friday, scientists blast unprecedented levels of power into a prototype accelerator, producing a supercharged electron beam that can burn through the water.

The space shuttle Discovery at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in 2010. The space shuttle Discovery is scheduled to launch on 24 Feb from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, its last flight before being retired as the US shuttle programme winds down, NASA said Friday.—INTERNET

Scientists there, in coordination with the Office of Naval Research (ONR), injected a sustained 500 kilovolts (KV) of juice into a prototype accelerator where the existing limit had been 320 KV — a world’s record, the scientists explained.—INTERNET

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VoIP meets Facebook chat in Facebook Messenger app

NEW YORK, 19 Feb—Facebook Messenger by Crisp App combines two services that many of us hold near and dear: Facebook chat and VoIP. The app aims to one-up Facebook’s existing chat service by adding its own free VoIP service to the mix, making it easy to engage in voice chats with your Facebook friends free of charge.

When you log into your Facebook account through Facebook Messenger, you’re presented with a list of your online friends. You can proceed to chat with a friend via text, or if the friend is also running the Facebook Messenger app on their phone, you can connect for a free VoIP chat. If your friend is using Facebook on their computer, Facebook Messenger will send them a link that takes them to a Website where they can speak with you via a Flash-based VoIP app.—INTERNET

Champions shaping up for browser battles

San Francisco, 19 Feb—Google on Friday released a revved-up version of Chrome as rivals Microsoft and Mozilla beefed up their own champions for the competitive Internet browsing software arena.

In keeping with the arrival of the lunar year of the rabbit, Google product managers Jeff Chang and Li Chan touted the latest test version of Chrome as “quick as a bunny.”

The latest Chrome release came a week after Microsoft fielded an IE9 release candidate boasting improvements in speed, security, privacy, and website graphics capabilities.

IE9 had been downloaded more than two million times as of Friday, according to Ryan Gavin, the senior director of the IE team.

“We are especially excited to see the number of partners and developers embracing IE9 and taking advantage of the performance capabilities,” Gavin said in a blog post.—INTERNET

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A nurse checks a crying newborn in the maternity ward of a hospital. Babies lucky enough not to get HIV from their infected mothers still face up to four times greater risk of dying in the first year because of a greater susceptibility to infectious disease. Internet

The University of Maryland Medical Centre says having a compromised immune system that’s compromised by chemotherapy, HIV infection or other conditions.

Antipsychotic drugs raise heart risks, experts warn

NEW YORK, 19 Feb—Doctors must not forget about the physical health of people with serious mental health disorders who take antipsychotic drugs, experts warn. The authors of an editorial in the 19 Feb issue of The Lancet noted that patients with severe mental illness live an average of 16 years less than people in the general population. Heart disease, not suicide, is the major cause of death in these patients and antipsychotic drugs are a factor.

A study published recently in the Archives of General Psychiatry found that patients who took an antipsychotic drug gained 11 to 13 pounds within six to eight weeks after they starting taking the drug.

“The combination of antipsychotic side effects with poor diet, physical inactivity, high rates of smoking and other factors associated with psychotic illness, together with socioeconomic deprivation, has a devastating effect on cardiometabolic health,” according to the editorial.

“If existing antipsychotics are here to stay for at least for the foreseeable future — what can be done to ameliorate their effects and improve patients’ cardiometabolic health?” the authors asked.

Ford plans to team with Sollers in Russia

DETROIT, 19 Feb—Ford Motor Co is teaming up with Russian automaker Sollers to make and distribute cars in Russia, one of the fastest growing auto markets.

Under a deal announced Friday, Sollers will build Fords at Russian plants, helping boost a struggling local industry. Ford will have access to a huge market that could bolster its revenues. Ford and Sollers are expected to finalize their deal in June. The venture’s operations could start by year’s end. Ford’s stock fell 20 cents, or 1.25 percent, to $15.77 on Friday.

Under the Ford-Sollers deal, plants in the St Petersburg region and Tatarstan will make Ford passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and engines. The venture will also produce parts for Ford vehicles made in Russia and distribute imported Ford products and accessories. The joint venture will help strengthen Russia’s auto industry and its local supply base, said Ford of Europe CEO Stephen Odell. Internet

Gazprom may delay Shhtokman gas field to 2018

MOSCOW, 19 Feb—Russia’s energy giant Gazprom may decide to delay the launch of its troubled Shhtokman gas field by two more years because of the United States’ rapid development of shale gas, a report said Thursday.

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Huge security clampdown for World Cup

DHAKA, 19 Feb—The opening game of the World Cup Saturday sees a huge security operation swing into action designed to prevent any repeat of the deadly 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team that still haunts the sport.

Around 20,000 members of Bangladesh’s elite paramilitary force the Rapid Action Battalion and regular officers have been deployed in Dhaka for the first match, police spokesman M Sohail said.

“All cricket venues, airports, the nine official hotels and transport for all the teams and officials fall under our security blanket,” Sohail said as India and Bangladesh prepared to open the event. The Federation of International Cricketers’ Associations (FICA) in a statement on Friday said its security consultants Eastern Star International (ESI) — had “found proposed security arrangements to be sound.”

“ESI informed they were confident that provided the plans are implemented in a professional manner the risk to the players in this event will be minimised as far as possible,” the Australia-based association added.

Pakistan judge orders arrest of US car’s driver

LAHORE, 19 Feb—A judge on Friday ordered the arrest of the driver of a US vehicle that struck and killed a Pakistani while rushing to help an American detained in a pair of fatal shootings, a lawyer for the victim’s family said.

The arrest warrant could add to the tensions surrounding the case of the shooter, Raymond Allen Davis. The US insists he was acting in self-defence against robbers and qualifies for diplomatic immunity because he worked for the embassy.

The odds of Pakistani police detaining anyone in the US car are low. Authorities say they do not know who was in the vehicle, and the Americans have said little on the matter, other than acknowledging the car was driven by US Embassy staff.

The judge’s order could be a means of pressuring the US to produce the driver, who has not been identified but it’s highly unlikely any repeat of the deadly 2009 attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team.

China adopts heavy metal reduction plan

BEIJING, 19 Feb—China has adopted a plan to tackle heavy-metal pollution, according to state media, after more than 30 major poisoning incidents since 2009.

The government has set a target of reducing emissions of five metals lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium and arsenic by 15 percent from 2007 levels over the next five years, the China Daily said on Saturday.

China discharged 900 tonnes of the highly toxic metals in 2007, the paper reported, and Environment Minister Zhou Shengxian said 75 billion yuan ($11.4 billion) would be needed over the five years to address the problem.

The report did not say exactly how the funding would be allocated.

Nearly 4,500 enterprises, including mines, battery manufacturers, leather producers and the chemical industry, have been identified as key monitoring targets.

“More than 30 major heavy-metal poisoning incidents have occurred since 2009, posing a grave threat to public health, especially to children,” Zhou said.

Four thrown to deaths from bridge in southern Mexico

ACAPULCO, 19 Feb—Four men with their hands and feet tied and heads covered in duct tape were thrown 600 feet to their deaths from a bridge Friday, authorities said as Mexico’s increasingly bloody drug battles reached a new level of cruelty and intimidation.

The four were among 13 people slain Friday in Guerrero, which has seen a spike in violence since rival factions of the Beltran Leyva cartel began fighting over territory after leader Arturo Beltran Leyva died in a battle with Mexican Marines in December 2009.

The other nine were killed in the resort city of Acapulco. In the most gruesome of those killings, police found a severed head that had been scalped and whose face had been skinned.

The unidentified men were dropped from a 600-feet-high (200-meter) bridge near the Guerrero state capital of Chilpancingo, the Guerrero state Public Safety Department said.

The men had bruises all over their bodies and “it’s presumed they were thrown alive from the Solidarity bridge,” the statement said.

Officer shot in upstate NY melee dies, gunman dead

POUGHKEEPSIE, 19 Feb—A police officer died after being shot in the head Friday during an exchange of gunfire that killed a man who fatally shot a woman near a train station, authorities said. Poughkeepsie Police Chief Ron Knapp released a statement in the evening saying the 44-year-old officer had died from his injuries.

The name of the officer, an 18-year veteran, was withheld out of respect for the family and pending notification of his relatives.

The gunman shot a woman to death in a car hours earlier, then was himself fatally shot minutes later in the struggle with police, including an officer who had taken a 3-year-old from the man and handed the child to a bystander, police said. Knapp said it appears the gunman shot the officer, but it wasn’t immediately clear whether he was then killed by police gunfire or if he shot himself. Police didn’t say whether the wounded officer was the one who’d taken the child from the man.

Knapp said he believes the man and woman who were killed were husband and wife and weren’t from Poughkeepsie, a city of about 30,000 people about 70 miles south of Albany in New York’s Hudson Valley. Their names have not been released. A second officer suffered minor injuries and a half dozen others were involved, Knapp said. Officers responded to a report of gunfire at about 1 pm and one saw the man leaving the scene with a child in his arms and thought the man had been involved.

Two trains hit packed buses in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 19 Feb—Police and news reports say two trains have plowed into packed buses in separate accidents at unmanned railroad crossings in Bangladesh, killing at least 13 people.

The United News of Bangladesh news agency says eight people died and 25 were injured Saturday when an express train hit a bus at a crossing in Comilla District, east of Dhaka. In the second accident, police officer Ihsamul Hossain said five people died and 20 were injured Saturday in Jessore District, west of the capital. All the injured people were riding in the buses.

An organic bread vendor, right, serves customers at Orange Grove markets in suburban Sydney, on 19 Feb, 2011. Internet

Law enforcement officers stand outside the Poughkeepsie rail station in Poughkeepsie, NY, on 18 Feb, 2011. Internet
Mind-moved bionic arm goes on display in US

A display at a Latin America’s first museum devoted to the Beatles in Buenos Aires. Although none of the 2,500 articles on display actually ever belonged to a member of the Fab Four, thousands of visitors have already poured through the doors of the Buenos Aires-based museum since it opened a few weeks ago.—INTERNET

Roll over Tango, Beatles museum hits Argentina

Buenos Aires, 19 Feb—The world’s tango capital is dancing to a new beat at Latin America’s first museum devoted to the Beatles. Although none of the 2,500 articles on display actually ever belonged to a member of the Fab Four, thousands of visitors have already poured through the doors of the Buenos Aires-based museum since it opened a few weeks ago.—INTERNET

Tong Trong Nghia in Bac Giang Province, north of Hanoi on 15 February, 2011.—INTERNET

Spain okays plan to shore up troubled savings banks

Madrid, 19 Feb—Spain’s government Friday approved tough new rules that require the country’s troubled savings banks to boost their core capital in a bid to shore up confidence in its battered economy. The move came as the central bank said Spanish banks’ non-performing loans ratio, a key indicator of their financial health, jumped to its highest level since 1995.

Spain’s regional savings banks are weighed down by loans that turned sour after the collapse of a housing bubble in 2008 and are at the heart of fears the country could need a much bigger rescue than those granted by the EU and International Monetary Fund to Ireland and Greece last year.—INTERNET

Twitter cuts off Ubermedia apps for tweets

San Francisco, 19 Feb—Twitter on Friday suspended UberTwitter, UberCurrent, and Twidroyd applications in a clash with a startup that controls a fifth of the “tweets” at the hot microblogging service. The UberMedia applications cut off from Twitter handled messages “tweeted” from Android, BlackBerry, or iPhone smartphones. Other software is available to “tweet” from those kinds of smartphones. “We have suspended UberTwitter and Twidroyd for violating our policies,” Twitter said in a post at the San Francisco firm’s online help centre.

Every day, we suspend hundreds of applications that are in violation of our policies.”

Google makes web search more social

Washington, 19 Feb—Google is making Web search more social, weaving posts from the Twitter, Flickr, Blogger and other accounts of a user’s friends into search results.

The move is an expansion of “Google Social Search,” which the Internet giant introduced in 2009.

Instead of featuring at the bottom of a page of search results, relevant posts from the social media accounts of a user’s friends are now integrated into the list of results themselves.

A Google search for camping, for example, may bring up a Twitter post by a friend about hiking trails or a link to campsite pictures uploaded by a friend to Flickr.

“Relevance isn’t just about pages — it’s also about relationships,” Google product management director Mike Cassidy and product manager Matthew Kulick said in a blog post.

“Today we’re taking another step forward enabling you to get even more information from the people that matter to you, whether they’re publishing on YouTube, Flickr or their own blog or website,” they said.

“This means you’ll start seeing more from people like co-workers and friends, with annotations below the results they’ve shared or created,” they added.

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Myanmar traditional chess open contest kicks off

YANGON, 19 Feb—The 2011 Myanmar traditional chess open contest (Individual’s event) was opened at the gym of Aung San Stadium here this afternoon. On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports, MOC Secretary Sports and Physical Committee Minister for Sports, MOC, opened at the gym of Aung San contest (Individual’s event) was Myanmar traditional chess open contest (Individual’s event). The chess contest opened today will be included for the first time in XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013. The contest will be held from 19 to 27 February starting from 1 pm daily.—MNA

SMS application services displayed at Software & Solution Exhibition

YANGON, 19 Feb—eTrade Myanmar Co Ltd showcased SMS application service, eTM SMS, SMS2LED Interactive Quiz & Game FMCG Product at Software & Solution Exhibition 2011 at Strand Hotel, here, on 18 and 19 February. Since November 2005, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications has permitted application of SMS system for user to be able to receive market information on prices of commodities and other information. At present, anyone may take daily price and information through GSM, CDMA 450, CDMA 800, and www.etrademyanmar.com. For further information, contact eTrade Myanmar Co Ltd (Yangon Head Office), Room-8, Building No-4, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hlone Township, 01-652283, 507153, 507154, 095148626 and Mandalay Head Office at C/3, second floor, 32th Street between 77th & 78th Streets, 02-69390 and 095195222.—MNA

Best Battery at Automobile & Living Products Show-2011

YANGON, 18 Feb—Best Battery Trading Co Ltd is displaying multipurpose 2-volt battery used in inverter, solar and generator at Automobile & Living Products Show-2011 from 18 to 21 February. Best Battery Trading Co Ltd has been distributing ATLAS, ENEX and ABX-AGM sealed maintenance free batteries made in Korea since 2001.

UMFCCI, Education Resources Pte., Ltd and British Council Myanmar ink MoU

YANGON, 18 Feb—The Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony on opening of LCCI course at UMFCCI Training Institute and designation of the institute as a LCCI Exam Center among the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Education Resources Pte., Ltd and British Council Myanmar was held on the second floor of the federation building here on 15 February. It was attended by UMFCCI Vice-Presidents U Win Aung, U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin, U Thaung Tin and U Tun Aung, Joint General Secretary Dr Myo Thet, CEC members and executives, Chief Operations Officer Mr. Mark Joseph Doney @ Markram Abdullah and Manager (ED) Mr. Luke Wales of Education Resources Pte., Ltd. Director Mr Alan Smart and Exam Services Manager Daw Windy Tin Win Kyi of British Council Myanmar.

Next, Vice-President U Thaung Tin, Joint-General Secretary Dr Myo Thet, Chief operations Officer Mr. Mark Joseph Markram Abdullah, Manager Mr Luke Wales, Director Mr Alan Smart and Manager Daw Windy Tin Win Kyi signed the MoU.—MNA

IT courses at 3W

YANGON, 19 Feb—Myanmar World Wide Institute (M3WI) will offer Fundamental IT, Programming and system essentials courses in the last week of February. The two-month Basic IT Course covers Microsoft Windows system, English, Myanmar typing, power point, photoshop, webpage building, C++ and the two-month Essential Programming Course covers fundamental programming techniques. System Essentials course covers knowledge about functioning, maintenance of CPU, system installation, trouble shooting, virus cleaning and data recovery.

Those interested may enroll at Room-4, Building-5, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline University Campus, here, Tel: 652288, 521125m 652258.—MNA

Baking at Star

YANGON, 19 Feb—Star Resources Hospitality Academy will open International Bakery & Pastry Course for those wishing to work in local and international hotels, restaurants and cruises and those wishing to run their own businesses in the last week of February. The three-month course covers making fast food, Danish, puff, croissant, baking soft and hard bread, butter, chocolate cakes and muffin, making cookies, doughnut, sweet dough, Eclair, menu planning, calculation of menu cost, food safety and kitchen operation management. For enrollment, contact Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy, at Room 302, Building 267, Pyay Road, Myaynigone, Yangon, Townpshire, here, Ph: 01-523623, 523200.—MNA

Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint and party stroll along Pyinyaung Bridge.

(News on page 1)—MNA

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Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint and party stroll along Pyinyaung Bridge.

(News on page 1)—MNA
EP-2 Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Myint received President Mr Yuan Xi Zhong and party of Central China Power Grid International Economic & Trade Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China at the hall of the Ministry of EP-2, here, yesterday morning.

They focused on construction of power grid and power station projects and cooperation in technology.—MNA

Sailun tyres on sale at Automobile & Living Products Show

YANGON, 19 Feb—Sailun brand tyres of Sann Ngwe Yaung Co., Ltd are available at Automobile & Living Products Show organized by Conquest Organizing Group under the main sponsorship of Shwe Than Lwin Co., (Sky Net) at Tatmadaw Convention Hall here from 18 to 21 February.

At the booth of the company, Sailun brand S.911 and S.917 tyres suitable for vehicles used in timber production and dam construction sites and, S.711, S.815 tyres suitable for vehicles running on the plain are showcased together with the latest S.737 tyre for trucks. S.636 tyre for Express is also available at the booth.

Those who want to buy Sailun tyre may contact No (94) on Bayintnaung Market Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon (Ph: 01 686292 and 01 686293), Mandalay Office at No HZ on Po Yaza street in Industrial Zone (1) in Mandalay (Ph: 02 54403 and 02 53455) and No (1-23 90) at the corner of Yaw Mingyi and 65th Streets in Industrial Zone (1) in Mandalay (Ph: 02 32117).—MNA

Asian Wings airline...

(from page 16)

Soon, the plane started its engine to leave Yangon International Airport. It takes about one hour and 20 minutes to fly from Yangon to Heho at 12,000 feet above the ground. Along the route, the flight attendants explain dos and don’ts for the safety of travellers. It was greatly pleasing to us to see the crew tending to a sick traveller aboard the plane.

On arrival at Heho Airport, national races troupes gave tumultuous welcome to the travellers. After carrying travellers at Heho Airport, the plane took to the air to Mandalay International Airport. About 30 minutes later, we arrived at Mandalay International Airport where altogether the chief pilot, travellers and crew were welcomed and presented commemorative gifts by damsels from the airport.

Later on, the plane we boarded left Mandalay International Airport and about one hour and ten minutes later reached Heho Airport in golden triangle of eastern Myanmar after passing staggering beautiful Shan mountain range, pleasurable sight of Shan State and the copiously flowing Thainwin River.

At the airport, responsible persons and national races accorded warm welcome to all our travellers, the chief pilot and crew.

The chief pilot guided the responsible persons around the plane and explained facts about the modern plane and its efficiency in detail. Then, ATR 72-500 aircraft returned to Yangon carrying travellers aboard.

The launch of Asian Wings new airline in Myanmar is not only the victory for Asian Wings airline but also for the entire national people. It is also the epitome of one of the economic objectives saying “The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national people”.

The successful launch of airline contributes a great deal to better transport sector, thereby improving social economic status of the entire people.

Translation: ZZS
Myanma Alin:
31-1-2011

Industry-1 Maung Myanmar Cycling Contest held in Welaung

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—The men’s event of Industry-1 Maung Myanmar Cycling Contest, organized by Ministry of Industry-1, kicked off in front of Chedawya Pagoda in Htbaaukon Village Taungtha Township this morning and the women’s event at Aungtha Village of Taungtha Township.

Cyclists participated in the events along Mahlaing-Taungtha Road and finished in front of Bo Ya Nyunt Statue in Welaung.

Managing Director U Maung Maung Toe of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries, Chairman U Hla Moe of Myingyan District Peace and Development Council, Chairman of Taungtha Township PDC U Soe Soe Naing and officials awarded respective winners.

A total of 52 men and 43 women took part in the contest, and K 4,680,000 was awarded to the winners. —MNA

Digital scales on sale at Automobile & Living products Show

YANGON, 19 Feb—Mya Pan Wah Company is taking part in Automobile & Living Products Show organized by Conquest Organization Group, at Tatmadaw Convention Hall here. The Show will be held up to 21 March.

Various kinds of digital scales and book drive scanner are on sale at a discount at the Show. Any one may dial 096501747 and 095021144 to enjoy a door-to-door service.

MNA

Smile-wearing damsels welcome flight attendants at Tachilek Airport.

A flight attendant explains dos and don’ts for safety of passengers.
Intel to invest $5 billion in new Arizona plant

HILLSBORO, 19 Feb — US computer chip giant Intel announced plans on Friday to invest more than $5 billion to build a new state-of-the-art chip manufacturing facility in Arizona.

The announcement was made by Intel president and chief executive Paul Otellini during a visit by President Barack Obama to an Intel facility in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Intel, the world’s largest computer chip maker, said construction of the new facility, Fab 42, in Chandler, Arizona, will begin in the middle of this year and it is expected to be completed in 2013.

“When completed, Fab 42 will be the most advanced high-volume semiconductor factory in the world,” Otellini said, and will create thousands of jobs.

Intel said the new Arizona factory will make transistors with a minimum size of 14 nanometers.

Japán’s Skymark signs for six Airbus A380s

SEOUL, 19 Feb—A sweeping free trade agreement between South Korea and the European Union is a “win-win” deal for both parties, an EU diplomat said Friday after Europe’s parliament approved the deal.

The parlament in Strasbourg voted 465-128 for the pact Thursday after securing safeguards to protect Europe’s auto industry from tough South Korean rules on fuel efficiency and CO2 emissions.

“This FTA is a win-win deal to both sides and will bring great benefits to both EU and Korean businesses, workers and consumers on both sides,” Tomasz Kotelewski, EU ambassador to Seoul, told a Press conference.—INTERNET

Trade pact is ‘win-win’ for S Korea, EU

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Malaysia and India ink free trade pact

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Feb—India and Malaysia signed a free trade agreement Friday, the second this week for Southeast Asia’s third-largest economy as it seeks to deepen its economic ties in the region.

The economic partnership agreement came just two days after India sealed a similar pact with Japan, and will pave the way for trade between Malaysia and India to reach $15 billion by 2015.

The deal signed by Indian Commerce Minister Anand Sharma and his Malaysian counterpart Mustapa Mohamed, expands upon a trade pact that was inked in November 2010.

The original plans called for a three-year deal, requiring the construction of two temporary stands on the home of cricket’s grass, in front of the Pavilion.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Mustapa said in a statement that the Malaysia-India agreement is more extensive covering services, investments, technical barriers to trade and other areas that were excluded in the regional pact.—INTERNET

Olympic archers ‘won’t target’ Lord’s wicket

LONDON, 19 Feb—The London 2012 Olympic archery competition will see stands built on the Lord’s pitch and arrows fired over the wicket but the Games organizers have pledged to protect cricket’s hallowed turf.—INTERNET

Qantas in Rolls-Royce talks after new A380 problem

SYDNEY, 19 Feb—Qantas said it was checking with Rolls-Royce after an oil problem with an A380 superjumbo’s engine, but added the incident was not connected to November’s mid-air blast.

A spokesman said the flagship Airbus craft was flying from Singapore to London on Tuesday when oil supplies dropped on one of its four Rolls-Royce Trent 900 engines, but did not pose a safety problem.

“The crew detected a decrease in oil supply to the engine, so they just monitored it throughout the flight,” she told AFP on Saturday.

“The engine was never shut down. There was no need for the flight to be diverted and it landed without any issue.”—INTERNET

India to host new international art biennale

NEW DELHI, 19 Feb—India’s booming art scene is set for a new event modelled on the Venice Biennale that will feature 60 international artists by the sea in the tropical south of the country.

The Kuchi-Muziris Biennale, launched this week, will be held in January next year and will be the first event of its kind in India, featuring artists from all over the world in a three-month show.

Conceived by artists Bose Krishnamachari and Riyas Komu and funded in part by the local state of Kerala, the show will make use of numerous industrial spaces in Kochi and exhibition areas in the ancient port of Muziris.

“We’ve always had this idea of bringing in international art into India,” Komu told AFP in a telephone interview. “We thought that a Biennale would be the best bet.”

Artists working in all mediums will be invited, including several from countries with which India has poor diplomatic relations, notably neighbouring Pakistan and rival Asian powerhouse China, he said.—INTERNET

A local fisherman is seen here catching fish at Fort Kochi, in Kochi. India’s booming art scene is set for a new event modelled on the Venice Biennale that will feature 60 international artists by the sea in the tropical south of the country. —INTERNET

This file photo shows an Airbus A380 superjumbo aircraft, equipped with Rolls Royce Trent 900 engines. Qantas said it was checking with Rolls-Royce after an oil problem with an A380 engine, but added the incident was not connected to November’s mid-air blast.—INTERNET

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Electrode therapy aids severe compulsive disorder

A computer image mapping parts of the brain. The use of brain surgery to treat psychiatric disorders has long been controversial, but new technologies are emerging that can help people with severe illnesses, scientists said.

“...As we stick devices into people’s brains it turns out that this has become very promising. There are really exciting results but we remain cautious as we move forward,” said Michael Okin, neurologist at the University of Florida.

Okin was part of a panel at the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Washington to describe new progress and setbacks in treating Parkinson’s disease, obsessive compulsive disorder and Tourette’s syndrome.—INTERNET

Robotic arm mimics human movement

BEIJING, 19 Feb—Computer scientists in Japan are developing a robotic arm, that mimics human movement. They believe the technology will eventually replace the mouse and keyboard, for a 3D interactive experience on future computers.

Tsukuba University’s robotic arm can do almost anything a human arm can do. Two cameras stream real-time video of human estures to a pair of laptop computers. The laptops process the video signal and send corresponding instructions to the robotic arm so when the human reaches to an object, so does the robot.

The arm has a future in remote robotics, but its developers say the underlying technology has far more exciting implications for human interaction with computers of the future. University of Tsukuba Professor Kiyoshi Hoshino says that future will be in three dimensions. Professor Kiyoshi Hoshino, University of Tsukuba, said, “If your output medium is two-dimensional, a touchscreen is a very effective way of inputting information. However, displays will likely soon become 3D.—Xinhua

US closes four banks, 22 total so far in 2011

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—US banking authorities closed four banks on Friday, bringing the total number shuttered in 2011 to 22.

In 2010, 157 banks failed following 140 failures in 2009. The bulk of the failures have increasingly been smaller institutions, those with less than $1 billion in assets, as large banks have recovered more quickly from the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

The FDIC announced the following closures on Friday:
- Habersham Bank of Clarkselle, Georgia was closed. The bank’s eight branches will reopen as part of SCBT National Association (SCBT.O). As of 31 December, 2010, Habersham Bank had approximately $387.6 million in total assets and $339.9 million in total deposits.
- Citizens Bank of Effingham of Springfield, Georgia, was shuttered, with its four branches reopening on Saturday as part of HeritageBank of the South (HBOS.O). As of 31 December, 2010, Citizens Bank of Effingham had about $214.3 million in total assets and $206.5 million in total deposits.—Reuters

Americans unswayed by menu calorie counts

International Journal of Obesity, just as a major policy to display calorie counts on menus is taking effect across the United States.

The study examined 427 parents and teenagers in low income areas of New York City and Newark, New Jersey before mandatory menu labeling began in 2008 and after. Teenagers noticed the labels, but fewer than one in 10 used the information in their purchase choice.

“After labelling began, 57 percent in New York and 18 percent in Newark said they noticed the calorie in formation. A total of nine percent said that the information influenced their choices,” said the study. Among adults, 28 percent said the information influenced what they ate. But in the end, the calorie counts show that having the information ahead of time made no difference in the amount that adults and teens gobbled down.

“Teens purchased about 725 calories and 28 percent said that the information influenced their choices,” said the study. Among adults, 28 percent said the information influenced what they ate. But in the end, the calorie counts show that having the information ahead of time made no difference in the amount that adults and teens gobbled down.

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Mr Diamond disclosed the tax data after being questioned by the Treasury Select Committee. — Internet

LONDON, 19 Feb — Barclays has revealed it paid £113m in corporation tax to the UK in 2009, 2.4% of its £4.85bn annual profit. Labour MP Umunna said it showed the bank was not contributing its fair share to Treasury coffers.

Barclays UK corporation tax bill for 2009 was £113m

Mr Diamond disclosed the tax data after being questioned by the Treasury Select Committee. — Internet

LONDON, 19 Feb — Barclays has revealed it paid £113m in corporation tax to the UK in 2009, 2.4% of its £4.85bn annual profit. Labour MP Chuka Umunna, of the Treasury Select Committee, who requested the detail, described it as “shocking.” Barclays said the amount of corporation tax it paid for the year included losses for the previous year.

The UK tax authorities’ relatively low take also reflects the global nature of the British bank, with the bulk of its profits coming from outside the UK. Mr Umunna said it showed that the bank was not paying its fair share towards a deficit they had helped create, despite having benefited from the government’s rescue of the financial system.

Take That choreographer Kim Gavin lands Olympics gig

LONDON, 19 Feb — Choreographer Kim Gavin, who worked with Take That on their Circus tour, has been appointed artistic director for the 2012 Olympics closing ceremony. The Royal Ballet trained dancer also choreographed the Concert for Diana and the Help the Heroes Concert. Gavin said he was “honoured” to be involved with the sporting event, which will be held in London next summer. Composer David Arnold, who has scored several James Bond films has been appointed music director. Arnold has also produced records for artists including Dame Shirley Bassey, George Michael and the Kaiser Chiefs.

A nation we excel throughout the world in music, and our team will be reeling an electrifying and thrilling soundtrack for this spectacular event,” he said. Award-winning costume designer Es Devlin will be in charge of costumes for the event. — Internet

Negative experiences can stop painkillers working

LONDON, 19 Feb — A patient’s belief that a drug will not work can become a self fulfilling prophecy, according to researchers. They showed the benefits of painkillers could be boosted or completely wiped out by manipulating expectations.

The study, published in Science Translational Medicine, also identifies the regions of the brain which are affected. Experts said this could have important consequences.

Kim Gavin has choreographed and directed several Brit award performances.— Internet

Key breast cancer ‘driver’ gene found

LONDON, 19 Feb — Cancer experts have identified a gene which can cause a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer to develop. ZNF703 is the first “oncogene” to be discovered in five years. It is overactive in around one in 12 breast cancers, and could account for up to 4,000 UK cases a year. Cancer Research UK, whose scientists carried out the work, said the gene was a “prime candidate” for the development of new breast cancer drugs.

An oncogene is one which would normally help instruct healthy cells to divide but if it becomes overactive, it upsets the normal checks and balances that control that process. That damage is described as being “like a car’s accelerator becoming stuck down”, and the cell and all its daughter cells are permanently instructed to divide. Her2 — another oncogene — is already tested for. The drug Herceptin was developed to treat Her2 positive breast cancers.— Internet

*Aerocore* uses radar to track flying animals

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb — The study of birds, bats and flying insects could be transformed by the use of technology designed for tracking storms, researchers say. Meteorologists once treated the signals from flying animals as a nuisance that complicated their measurements. But recent improvements in computing power and networking of radar stations have turned that nuisance signal into a valuable data source on animal ecology.

A panel told the AAAS conference that radar could spot a single bee at 50km. Further improvements to the technique must be made before that level of resolution can be reached. However, now it is the storms that are complicating the signals that interest biologists. But pioneer of the “aerocore” field, Thomas Kunz, of Boston University, told the conference why radar is needed.— Internet

Europe’s Earthcare space laser mission gets go ahead

LONDON, 19 Feb — Europe is to press ahead with its Earthcare space laser mission, despite a 30% rise in its probable final cost. The satellite will study the role clouds and atmospheric particles play in a changing climate. But the difficulty in finding a workable design for the spacecraft’s lidar instrument means its total budget will now top 590m euros (£500m). Member states of the European Space Agency are convinced though that Earthcare will deliver invaluable data.

Delegates to the 18-nation alliance this week accepted the findings of a review that assessed the technical risks of proceeding. They also heard a clear message from the scientific community that Earthcare would do pioneering research. “The Programme Board confirmed the conclusions of the independent assessment,” said Dr Volker Liebig, ESA’s director of Earth observation.

The researchers carried out gene research.— Internet

Father, 8-year-old son shot; car torched in Mexico

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 18 Feb — A man and his 8-year-old son were shot and their car set on fire on late Wednesday in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez, a municipal police spokesman said.

The boy's body was found burned inside the car, while his father was able to get out before dying from his injuries, according to spokesman Adrian Sanchez. At least 32 shell casings were found at the scene, local newspaper El Diario de Juarez reported. Sanchez declined to comment on the casings report. Family members of the victims were at the scene of the attack on late Wednesday, according to local journalist Arturo Chacon. State prosecutors said two women were found dead on Tuesday night inside a car at a mall parking lot. The parking lot is at the same center where a police officer was fatally shot in late January while standing guard at a local government booth.

The city has seen a spike in violence, including at least 14 people killed in 48 hours earlier in February.
**Pirates could walk plank over porridge attack**

South African premier league leaders Orlando Pirates face possible sanctions and a heavy fine after a fan threw porridge at a match official at a match in Durban last month.

The Pirates are being charged with spectator misbehaviour and bringing the game into disrepute after one of their supporters lobbed a handful of stodgy porridge, which South Africans commonly eat with most meals, at the referee.

The incident came at the end of a comfortable away win for the Pirates.

In October last year, arch rivals Kaizer Chiefs were handed a suspended 500,000 rand (44,816 pounds) fine after angry fans threw two plastic vuvuzelas and a cabbage onto the pitch during a cup tie to protest refereeing decisions.

The throwing of missiles onto the field by frustrated fans was a major problem in South African soccer for some time but has almost disappeared in recent years.

**Estonia claims Europe’s longest ice highway**

Stretching for 26 kilometres (16 miles) across a frozen expanse of the Baltic Sea, an ice road will open to motor traffic Saturday linking Estonia’s mainland port of Rohukula with Hiiumaa island.

“The ice road is opened in years when the winter is cold enough to freeze the sea strongly enough to carry cars,” Raido Randmaa from Estonia’s highways administration said.

Under a special law, Estonian authorities can give the green light to ice roads when the marine ice sheet becomes at least 25 cm (9.8 inches) thick, according to Randmaa.

“But we usually wait until it gets to 30 cm (11 inches) everywhere,” he explains, adding the ice sheet was judged thick enough for traffic last week.

The grand opening of the ice highway between the port of Rohukula in north-east Estonia and Hiiumaa island — is always a big event for the population slightly over 10,000 —

**Doctors remove knife from man’s head after four years**

Surgeons in sou-theen China successfully removed a rusty, 4-inch (10-centimetre) knife from the skull of a man who said it had been stuck in there for four years, the hospital said Friday.

Li Fuyan, 30, had been suffering from severe headaches, bad breath and breathing difficulties but never knew the cause of his discomfort, said the senior official at the Yuxi City People’s Hospital in Yunnan Province.

Li told doctors he had been stabbed in the lower right jaw by a robber four years ago and the blade broke off inside his head without anyone realizing it, said the director of the hospital’s office who would only give his surname, He.

Surgeons worked cautiously to remove the badly-corroded blade without shattering it, He said. The hospital’s website also reported the successful surgery.

**Berlin fest competition ends with bold blood feud drama**

**TV reporter speaks about speech problem at Grammys**

**Readers to pick Rolling Stone cover band**

**Elizabeth Taylor improving but still hospitalized**

**A boy holds an issue of Rolling Stone magazine at Dover High School’s gym in Dover, New Hampshire in 2004. The magazine is holding a contest to let its readers choose which of 16 unsigned bands should feature on the cover of Rolling Stone later this year.**

**Internet**

**A worker measures the thickness of the ice along Estonia’s ice road on 17 February. The 26.5 kms ice road in western Estonia, which links the mainland to the country’s second largest island of Hiiumaa, is Europe’s longest.**

**Internet**

**Actress Sindi Lacej arrives on the red carpet for the premiere of the film “The Forgiveness Of Blood” by US director Joshua Marston during the international Berlinale film festival.—INTERNET**

**In this photo taken on 13 Feb, 2011, Li Fuyan lies on a bed after the head surgery at the People’s Hospital in Yuxi in southwest China’s Yunnan Province.**

**In this 13 Feb, 2011 undated handout file photo provided by KCBS in Los Angeles, veteran TV journalist Serene Brandon reports on the Grammy awards show outside the Staples Centre in Los Angeles.**

**Los Angeles, 19 Feb—Elizabeth Taylor’s health is improving, but the Oscar winner is still hospitalized in Los Angeles. A spokeswoman for the 78-year-old actress says Taylor “has continued to show great improvement, and her family and friends are very pleased with her progress,” Publicist Jam- se Cadwell said Friday that Taylor will remain under observation at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre “for the time being.” She was admitted more than a week ago.—INTERNET**

**Los Angeles, 19 Feb—Wanna buy five copies for my mother. Wanna see my picture on the cover. Rolling Stone has long been a musician’s dream — Dr Hook and the Medicine Show even wrote a hit song about it. “Wanna see my smilin’ face on the cover of the Rolling Stone,” goes the 1973 song penned by Shel Silverstein.**

**Internet**
Everton win penalty shootout to beat Chelsea in FA Cup

London, 19 Feb—Everton knocked holders Chelsea out of the FA Cup when they won their fourth-round replay 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

With the shootout scores at 3-3, Ashley Cole missed his penalty for Chelsea and Everton captain Phil Neville sealed the victory by scoring with his kick.

An extra-time goal from Frank Lampard looked like giving Chelsea a 1-0 win to keep them on course to become the first club for 125 years to win the FA Cup three times in succession. Leighton Baines, however, equalised for Everton with a free kick in the last minute of extra time.

Everton will now face Championship (second division) Reading in the fifth round.

Birmingham 3-0 Sheff Wed

BIRMINGHAM, 19 Feb—Birmingham eased into the last eight of the FA Cup with a convincing win over Sheffield Wednesday. Jean Beausejour swept home Lee Bowyer's cut back after just six minutes, following good work by Alexander Hleb. Obafemi Martins scored his first goal for Birmingham before David Murphy scored from close-range in the second half to ensure Birmingham's progress.

The Owls toiled for a consolation after their torrid first half, but were unable to penetrate the home side's defence. Birmingham's win was tempered by an injury to Hleb, making him a doubt for next Sunday's Carling Cup final against his former club Arsenal.—Internet

Stoke 3-0 Brighton

LONDON, 19 Feb—Stoke reached the last eight of the FA Cup following a comfortable victory over League One leaders Brighton. The Premier League side took the lead in the 14th minute when John Carew headed in Rory Delap's long throw-in. Stoke's second was scored by Jon Walters after he nodded Marc Wilson's cross beyond keeper Peter Brezovan.

And the third came shortly before the interval when Ryan Shawcross headed in Wilson's flick-on from Jermaine Pennant's corner. —Internet

Algeria end fairytale South Africa run

JOHANNESBURG, 19 Feb—The fairytale winning run of South Africa in the African Nations Championship ended Friday as they fell 2-0 to Algeria in Sudan. Abdelkader Laftouii broke the quarter-final deadlock from a penalty one minute before half-time and Hocine Metref added a second goal three minutes into stoppage time on an artificial Khartoum Stadium pitch.

Sudan needed a penalty shootout, which they won 4-3, to oust Nigeria in the late fixture after Bakri al-Gadir had given the host nation an early lead in regulation time and Sidibe Modibbo levelled midway through the second half. Abdelkader Laftouii, scoring on a penalty as Algeria went on to beat South Africa 2-0 in the African Nations Championship quarter-finals in Sudan.—Internet

Canadians Raonic, Marino win at Memphis

MADISON, 19 Feb—Canada's Milos Raonic, seeking his second title in two weeks, and compatriot Rebecca Marino, seeking her first WTA final, advanced on Friday at an ATP and WTA indoor event. Raonic, a 20-year-old whose ATP San Jose crown was the first by a Canadian in 16 years, kept his sizzling run going by firing 20 aces to beat US qualifier Robert Kendrick 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, in the 1.32 million-dollar tournament. He reached a Saturday semi-final against US fourth seed Mardy Fish, who downed US fifth seed Sam Querrey 6-3, 6-4. —Internet

Giggs signs one-year extension with Man Utd

LONDON, 19 Feb—Manchester United's long-serving midfielder Ryan Giggs has signed a one-year contract extension with the Premier League giants, it was confirmed on Friday. Giggs, who turned 37 in November, had already signalled his intention to prolong his Old Trafford career into a 21st season, and the club confirmed on Friday the deal had now been signed. “All I’ve ever wanted to do is play for United and I’ve been lucky enough to do that for 20 years,” said Giggs.

“It is great to know I’m still contributing to the team’s success and I feel I’ve got a lot to offer on and off the pitch. “This is an exciting time to be involved with so many good young players coming through.” —Internet

Ancelotti defends ‘good man’ Gattuso

LONDON, 19 Feb—Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti defended Gennaro Gattuso on Friday following the AC Milan stalwart’s headbutt on Tottenham coach Jose Jordan during the Champions League this week.

Ancelotti, who managed Gattuso for eight years during his stint at the San Siro, said the midfielder’s behaviour in Tuesday’s match in Milan was out of character. “I was obviously not happy because Gattuso is a very generous player, is a very good man,” Ancelotti said. —Internet

Couples turns back clock at Riviera

LOS ANGELES, 19 Feb—Fred Couples does not like how he looks atop the leaderboard on the PGA Tour. Except that he’s at Riviera. Despite a bad back that hurts when he stoops over a short iron, Couples navigated around his favorite tournament course without a bogey Friday for a 5-under 66 that gave him a two-shot lead in the Northern Trust Open.

It helped that he knocked in an eagle putt of nearly 100 feet on his opening hole, along with a pair of 30-foot birdies. But even for a 51-year-old well past his prime, he was carried along by a languid swing and his love for Riviera. —Internet

Fred Couples
Barcelona in the title race.

Pepe believes Mourinho is Portuguese centre-back matches at the Santiago Levante. Madrid have won match against promoted ahead of Saturday's home Champions League trip to tending rest, with their

Real Madrid chase Barca in La Liga title race

Maçou, 19 Feb—Real Madrid have had an extended rest, with their Champions League trip to Lyon not until 22 February, ahead of Saturday’s home match against promoted Levante. Madrid have won all 11 of their home matches at the Santiago Bernabéu this season and Portuguese centre-back Pepe believes Mourinho is capable of reeling in Barcelona in the title race.

“The more they attack (Jose) Mourinho, the more we want to win,” Pepe said. Levante, two points above the relegation zone, drew 0-0 with Real earlier in the season but were thumped 8-0 by them in the King’s Cup and will be gunning for revenge. Levante can take heart from the absence of Real’s first-choice goalkeeper Iker Casillas, who is suspended after his red card in the 1-0 win at Espanyol last weekend.—Internet

WEATHER

Saturday, 19th February, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.

Several observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-2-2011: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-2-2011: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-2-2011: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).
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

Asian Wings airline—the epitome of better air travel
Byline & Photos: Maung Yin Kyay (Tachilek)

It is totally sure to say that the 27 January sweetened the aviation sector of Myanmar with honey. Because it was a day when the private-owned new airline Asian Wings launched its maiden flight. With the progress of the nation, air travel considerably grows day by day. Asian Wings airline, therefore, plans on running domestic air routes with two ATR 72-500 aircrafts in an attempt to fulfill the transport requirement of the country by doing its bit.

We Myanma Alin daily news collectors boarded the plane on Yangon-Heho-Mandalay-Tachilek route that would take off Yangon International Airport and would land in Tachilek. It was learnt that Yangon-Bagan-NyaungU-Mandalay-Heho route had also started in the early morning.

White and Red colours on the body of ATR 72-500 aircraft stand for cleanliness and courage.

Travelers boarded the plane at 11 am, receiving warm and sweet welcome from chief pilot U Khin Maung San and the crew led by senior flight attendant Ma Thida Myint wearing elegant smile. It is a fine service that satisfies the travellers.

(See page 9)

Fire drill conducted in Pobbathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb — As an effort to prevent houses, office buildings and markets from possible danger of fire in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw District, talks on fire preventive measures were organized in conjunction with a fire drill at the staff quarter of A-1 construction company on 30 January.

First, Engineer in-charge U Hla Htay spoke on the occasion. Next, Head of Township Fire Service Department U Soe Than gave talks on fire preventive measures.

Next, attendees took part in the fire drill.

MNA

Talks on traffic rules given
NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb — Head of Traffic Police No. 2 of Yangon Region Wireless and Traffic Police Corps Police Captain Khin Maung Win and members gave talks on traffic rules and regulations to 42 trainee drivers at Fire Services Department (Headquaters) 1 Mayangon Township on 16 February.—MNA