President U Thein Sein gives an interview with Ms Elizabeth Graham Weymouth, Senior Associate Editor of The Washington Post

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Senior Associate Editor Ms. Elizabeth Graham Weymouth of The Washington Post and party at the Presidential Residence in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 pm on 17 January, 2012 and responded to the questions.

Also present at the interview together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi.

The following is the complete questions and answers during the interview between the President and the Washington Post.

President: Welcome you. The Washington Post is a very influential one. This is the first time for me to give interview to a foreign media as the President. Also together here with me are the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Union Minister for Information and for Culture and Union Minister for Labour. I am receiving you not only as a media personnel but also as a visitor to our country.

Washington Post: I usually ask a lot of questions during my interview. Especially, I hope I can ask many questions with regard to the reforms that the President is currently carrying out.

President: I will answer your questions. If you are not clear about any matter, you can ask me again.

Washington Post: I will start the questions. The whole world is interested in the current reforms process in Myanmar. Particularly, the international community is watching with great interest on the release of political prisoners, dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and ceasefire with the armed ethnic groups. So, what are the main driving forces for all these reforms?

President: The main driving forces behind all these reforms today in Myanmar are actually the people of Myanmar. Because we are striving to fulfill the will of the people and undertaking reforms. People want to have peace and stability in the country. Then, they want their country to be economically developed and become a modern and developed country. That is the will of the people today. We are doing these reforms to fulfill that will of the people. It is important to achieve peace and stability, economic development and harmony with the internal political forces as desired by the people. That’s why, we met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and achieved mutual understanding and political situation inside the country has become more stable. Another point is that the people wish to have peace in the country. Therefore, we offered olive branch to the armed ethnic groups and negotiations are being carried out. Therefore, our efforts in the reforms process are based on the people’s desire. The people are the main driving forces.

Washington Post: I would say even though all these efforts are the will of the people, in fact you took the initiative. Mr. President, you yourself met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. So, I would like to know how do you see the future of Myanmar?

President: In future, I hope Myanmar will have more transparency and better relations with countries around the world.

Washington Post: Mr. President you have met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. You took initiative to do these reforms. So, I would like to know whether you will continue to carry out these reforms in the future?

President: Our aim is to have peace and stability in the country and for the national economic development. Thus, we have to continue our efforts to fulfill these aims for the peace and stability and further economic developments for the country.

Washington Post: If I may say exactly Mr. President, you have done to normalize relationship with the United States. You have released political prisoners. You have reached ceasefire with some armed ethnic groups to achieve peace. Therefore, how do you foresee what are the requirements in order to proceed the reform process in the future? What will you do in the future?

President: We will continue our serious effort to have peace and stability in the country. Respective laws have been amended by the Hluttaw in order for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to be able to participate in the elections. She herself re-registered the NLD.
IMF Mission calls on Union Energy Minister  

**MoU on 17th State level meeting of Myanmar-India Civil Authorities signed**

**Tobacco Kills**

**Road to Victory golf tournament 24-27 Jan**

**Chess trainees pass FIDE Trainers Seminar**
Suicides down among US soldiers but violent crimes rise

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan — US Army suicides are levelling off but rates of domestic violence and sex crimes among soldiers have increased, a report says. Suicides among active duty soldiers, as well in the National Guard and the Reserve, totalled 278 in 2011, down 9% from 2010. It was the first decline in four years. The report also calls post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) an “epidemic”, estimating there could be as many as 472,000 troops with the condition. “There’s a lot of good news in this report, but there’s also some bad news,” Gen Peter Chiarelli told reporters at a Pentagon news conference. “We know we’ve got still a lot of work to do.” Violent sex crimes and domestic violence have increased more than 30% since 2000 and child abuse by 43%.

The findings follow a 2010 report that said the Army was either missing signs that suicidal soldiers were trouble or were looking the other way as commanders tried to keep up with tight deployment schedules in both Iraq and Afghanistan. — Internet

Mexican army frees three children held by alleged gang

MEXICO CITY, 20 Jan — The Mexican army says it has rescued three children who were being held by a suspected criminal gang. Officials said the children had been chained and locked up in a private home in the central State of Morelos de Xochitepec near the nearby Town of Nueva Morelos Mora. The army said the body found in the apartment belonged to Eduardo Gonzalez Mora. His head had been found inside a motorcycle helmet in the nearby Town of Nueva Morelos de Xochitepec on Tuesday. A threatening message had been left next to the head signed by a criminal gang calling itself “Los Rojos” (Red Ones). Officials said very little was known about Los Rojos. — Internet

Afghan suicide attack kills seven at Kandahar airport

KANDAHAR, 20 Jan — At least seven civilians have died in a suicide attack at an airport used by international forces in the southern Afghan City of Kandahar, officials say. The attacker, driving a car, detonated explosives close to a gate at the perimeter of the airport. Afghan officials said the victims included two women, two children. — Internet

Gunmen kill Iraq village elder and three sons

Baghdad, police say. Mohammed Dwayne’s wife and a fourth son were also reportedly wounded when the gunman burst into their home in eastern Baghdad before dawn and opened fire. Mr Dwayne was a member of the Awakening Councils, a group of Sunni fighters who fought alongside the US army against al-Qaeda-linked militants. Awakening Council leaders have been the targets of many assassinations. Wednesday’s attack comes amid a marked deterioration in Iraq’s fragile political process since the withdrawal of US forces from the country at the end of last year. — Internet

Six NATO soldiers killed in Afghan helicopter crash

KABUL, 20 Jan — Six NATO soldiers have been killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan, the worst crash since 30 soldiers died last August. A NATO statement said the helicopter came down in the south of the country. NATO said no militant activity had been reported in the area at the time. The cause of Thursday’s crash is now being investigated. There is no further details of the crash would be released until the families of those on board had been informed, NATO said. “The cause of the crash is under investigation, however initial reporting indicates there was no enemy activity in the area at the time of the crash,” a spokesman from the International Security Assistance Force led by NATO said on Friday. The British Ministry of Defence said there were no UK soldiers involved. In August 2011, 30 soldiers, including 22 US Navy SEAL commandos, died in a helicopter crash in the east of Afghanistan. They were aboard a Chinook helicopter that went down in a district of Wardak Province, west of Kabul. Officials, witnesses and the Taleban have said it was shot down by insurgents during a combat mission.

The crash happened on the same day at least seven civilians died in a suicide attack at an airport used by international forces in the southern Afghan City of Kandahar. The attacker, driving a car, detonated explosives close to a gate at the perimeter of the airport. Afghan officials said the victims included two children. — Internet

Security tight after two bombs explode in Londonderry

LONDON, 20 Jan — A massive security operation is under way in Londonderry following two explosions in the city. The bombs exploded at Strand Road, close to the DHSS office, and at the tourist centre in Foyle Street, within 10 minutes of each other. There are no reports of injuries. Homes and businesses were evacuated after two telephone bomb warnings. Police described the attacks, which happened just after 20.00 GMT on Thursday, as “cowardly and callous”. Officers had had fan hour to clear the area before the bombs went off. The BBC understands that the PSNI received a warning through a third party. Stephen Martin, said the attacks were “cowardly and callous”. “Thankfully we are not dealing with mass casualties or worse this evening,” he said. The reckless acts of those who planted these devices stand in stark contrast to those of the brave officers who entered these areas to evacuate local residents and businesses. “The people in Derry do not want this disruption.” The extent of any damage to property is not yet known. A number of elderly residents had to be moved from a residential home during the police operation. One woman said she had been told there was a bomb at the bottom of the street. “We heard one (bomb) go off. It was very loud,” she said. “It was getting everybody out of the place where we live. But we all got out safely enough. --- Internet

The gates to the base are often busy with queuing trucks and cars. — Internet

Two foreigners seized in Multan

MULTAN, 20 Jan — Two foreigners have been kidnapped from the City of Multan in Pakistan’s Punjab Province, local police say. The Italian Foreign Ministry said that one of the two is Italian and that it is in contact with the victim’s family. The two are believed to be foreign NGO workers, with the other victim thought to be German. The two were working for a development agency helping victims of the 2010 floods, reports say. “Three armed men entered the house and kidnapped two foreign nationals. One of them is an Italian national and the other we believe to be German,” local police spokesman Amir Zulfiquar told Reuters. “So far we have not established a motive but it is too early to say. We are continuing investigations,” he added. — Internet
High risk oesophageal cancer gene discovered

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan—British researchers have uncovered a gene which plays a key role in the development of oesophageal cancer (cancer of the gullet), according to a study published online Thursday in American Journal of Human Genetics.

The research concentrated on three families with a hereditary condition called tylosis with oesophageal cancer. This condition affects the skin and mouth and sufferers have a 95 percent chance of developing oesophageal cancer by the age of 65.

The research revealed that all three families carried a faulty version of a gene called RHRedF2. Experiments showed that this gene plays an important role in how cells that line the oesophagus, and cells in the skin respond to injury. When the gene is functioning normally it ensures that cells grow and divide in a controlled fashion to help heal a wound. However, in tylosis patients’ cells, and in cells from oesophageal cancer patients, the gene malfunctions.

This allows cells to divide and grow uncontrollably, causing cancer. The new study was led by Professor David Kelsell from Queen Mary, University of London with collaborators from the University of Dundee and the University of Liverpool.

GM regains crown as top-selling automaker, Toyota No 3

Tokyo, 20 Jan—General Motors Co regained its title as the world’s top-selling automaker from Japanese rival Toyota Motor Corp in 2011, but the US company faces a challenge to stay on top this year as Toyota rebuilds its disaster-struck business.

GM, bouncing back from bankruptcy only less than three years ago, said on Thursday it had sold 9.026 million vehicles globally last year, up 7.6 percent from 2010, with its Chevrolet brand setting a sales record of 4.76 million vehicles.

The Detroit-based automaker’s return to the top slot comes after its 2009 taxpayer-funded bankruptcy restructuring allowed it to cut its spiraling legacy costs. It also suggests that this deregulation is all too common. Finding a cure for this aggressive cancer, and understanding what that gene is doing, is an enormous step forward,” Kelsell said in a statement.

Oesophageal cancer affects more than 8,000 people each year in the United Kingdom and the rates are rising. It is more common in the UK than anywhere else in Europe. Survival rates are poor compared to other types of cancer with only 85 percent of people alive five years after diagnosis.

In studying this relatively rare condition, we have made an important discovery about a cancer that is all too common. Finding a genetic cause for this aggressive cancer, and understanding what that gene is doing, is an enormous step forward,” Kelsell said in a statement.

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S Korea approves sales of new B stem cell drug

Seoul, 20 Jan—South Korea’s government drug agency cleared the way Thursday for commercial sales of what it called the world’s first approved medicine using stem cells collected from other people.

CartiSTEM, developed by South Korean Medipost, will help regenerate knee cartilage using stem cells developed from newborns’ umbilical cord blood, the Korea Food and Drug Administration said.

“CartiSTEM is... the world’s first approved allogeneic (taken from different individuals of the same species) stem cell drug, that can offer new opportunity for treatment of patients with degenerative arthritis,” the administration said in a statement. Medipost said 27 billion won ($23.8 million) from private investors and government funds had been invested to develop CartiSTEM since 2001. The drug can be injected into a patient’s knees via surgery. Clinical trials have been underway in the United States since last year, the statement said.

Two of the world’s top 10 drugmakers are in talks to seek a worldwide licence to make the drug, a Medipost spokesman told AFP, adding that final trials involving a large number of people would likely begin in the US in 2015.

US study reveals mechanism of lung cancer drug resistance

Washington, 20 Jan—New research published this week in Nature Medicine indicates that targeted drugs such as gefitinib might more effectively treat non-small cell lung cancer if they could be combined with agents that block certain microRNAs.

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

The findings support the development of agents that restore the levels of these microRNAs.

It offers a new strategy for treating non-small cell lung cancer, which is responsible for about 85 percent of the 221,000 lung-cancer cases and 157,000 deaths that occur annually in the United States. It also suggests that the expression levels of certain microRNAs—the ones controlled by the MET gene—might predict which lung-cancer cases are likely to be resistant to gefitinib.

Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is frequently overexpressed in non-small cell lung cancer, and this leads to uncontrolled cell proliferation. Gefitinib selectively inhibits EGFR activation and triggers cancer cells to self-destruct by apoptosis.

However, non-small cell lung cancer cells inevitably develop resistance to the drug.

Momentum to drain from world economy in 2012

London, 20 Jan—The world economy will lose momentum in 2012 but it will keep moving in the right direction, according to Reuters polls of around 600 economists who said crisis-hit Europe would drag on global growth. Asian economies will again power the expansion of the world economy this year, but with relatively subdued performances. The US economy, meantime, should continue to contribute modest growth that will easily outpace its recession-hit European peers.

Brazil will be one of the few big economies that will pick up steam this year, ending slower Latin American stablemates Mexico and Argentina. The US company faces a challenge to stay on top this year as Toyota rebuilds its disaster-struck business.

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**China’s 1st interplanetary probe hits Mars mission**

The less of China’s first interplanetary probe, attached to an ill-fated Russian spacecraft, crashed into the Pacific Ocean on Monday. The Russian Phobos-Grunt spacecraft the probe hitchhiked on failed to fire two booster engines that would have set it on course for the Red Planet.

However, no reason was given for the failure of the booster engines. Wusaid that the failure cost the centre a chance to conduct research and come up with breakthrough findings before its counterparts in the United States.

“The We had hoped that the micro-satellite could help us discover something about the atmosphere on Mars,” the China Daily quoted Ji as saying. He also said that the US will send a probe to Mars in 2013. As China’s first probe to Mars, the Yinghuo-1 mission had been expected to explore the Red Planet’s environment, climate history and look into why water had vanished from the surface of the planet.

Those specific objectives were selected by the centre in 2006 to differentiate China’s mission from those of other countries.

“Presevious missions mainly focused on whether there is water and life on the planet, consequently humans have limited knowledge of the Martian atmosphere,” Ji said. NASA’s Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft, scheduled to launch in 2013, also aims to find about the Red Planet’s atmosphere and climate history, among other tasks.

The MAVEN mission was selected in 2008 from 20 proposals submitted in response to a NASA Announcement of Opportunity in 2006. Both China and the United States are interested in the Martian atmosphere as it continues to be a cause of intrigue for scientists.

**Why birds of a feather don’t always stick together**

Visible traits don’t always coincide with genetics, a new study has claimed.

According to the new study conducted by researchers from the University of Utah, a bird from one breed may have huge foot feathers, while a closely related breed does not, yet two unrelated pigeon breeds both may have large foot feathers.

“Most people think of pigeons as rats of the sky, but in fact they’re really incredibly diverse,” Michael Shapiro, senior author of the study, said.

More than 350 breeds of pigeons differ in colour, colour pattern, body size, beak size and shape, structure of the skeleton, posture, vocalisations, feather placement and flight behaviour.

With the help from pigeon breeders worldwide, the researchers studied the genetic relationships and visible traits of 361 pigeons from 70 domestic breeds and two free-living populations, one from Salt Lake City and the other on the Scotland’s Isle of Skye.

“We found what we thought this study is that birds that are only distantly related to each other can have very similar traits, and others that are very closely related to each other can look quite different in terms of their traits,” Shapiro said. In some cases, birds of a feather don’t stick together—genetically. The old German owl pigeon and English trumpeter both have head feathers known as a head crest, yet the two pigeon breeds aren’t closely related.

In another case, English trumpeters have feathering of two different scales. So do English pouters. Yet they are not closely related.

Other examples include traits not matching genetics. Pigeon breeds known as the African owl and Hungarian or Budapest short-faced tumbler both have very short beaks, but they are not closely related.

The African owl and the German owl pigeon breeds both have short beaks and are closely related, yet the African owl pigeon has a plain head, while the German owl pigeon has a head crest. And the English pouter and Brunnor pouter are closely related, yet the former has foot feathers and the latter does not.
Sony Ericsson reports fourth quarter loss

**Tokyo**, 20 Jan—Mobile phone company Sony Ericsson has reported a fourth quarter loss, citing tough competition and the global economic slowdown for the deficit. The firm—which is soon to be fully taken over by Sony—posted a net loss of 20.7m euros (£17.5m), compared with an 8m euro profit a year ago. Analysts had also said it had been hit by component shortages following the floods in Thailand last year.

The firm reported a net loss of 247m euros for the whole of 2011. Chief executive Bert Nordberg said: “Our fourth quarter results reflected intense competition, unfavourable macroeconomic conditions and the effects of a natural disaster in Thailand.” Sales for the final three months of 2011 were 1.3bn euros, down 10% from the same period a year earlier, and 13% less than the previous quarter. The company shipped nine million handsets in the fourth quarter, down 20% from a year ago.

In October last year, Japan’s Sony agreed to take full control of Sony Ericsson from Sweden’s Ericsson. Sony is buying Ericsson’s 50% of the business for 1.1bn euros, a deal which is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. After the release of Sony Ericsson’s results, Ericsson said the mobile phone maker’s loss would cut its fourth quarter earnings by 1.1bn crowns (£160m; £104m).—INTERNET

Google revenues worse than expected

**NEW YORK**, 20 Jan—Google reported a 27% increase in revenues for the last three months of 2011, but even that was not good enough to meet Wall Street estimates, sending the shares tumbling. Google shares fell 10% in after-hours trading to $757. It reported 3-month revenue of $10.6bn (6.8bn). Its net profit rose 6.4% to $2.7bn. “Google had a really strong quarter ending a great year,” said chief executive Larry Page. “I am super excited about the growth of Android, Gmail, and Google+, which now has 90 million users globally—well over double what I announced just three months ago.” But analysts were less impressed. “Expectations were very high and they have missed that,” said Trip Chowdhry, from Global Equities Research. “Unlike Microsoft and Intel, estimates for Google have been rising for a few months.” The amount of clicks on Google’s search adverts rose significantly in the fourth quarter, but the amount Google was able to charge advertisers for each click fell 8%.—INTERNET

Chinese supercomputer begins operations

**BEIJING**, 20 Jan—China’s Sunway BlueLight supercomputer, which was built with domestically-produced microprocessors and is capable of performing around 1,000 trillion calculations per second, has officially begun operations. The computer began working on Thursday at the National Supercomputing Centre in the eastern City of Jinan in Shandong Province, Xinhua reported.

The computer industry is facing a worldwide shortage of hard disk drives due to flood devastation in Thailand hitting suppliers. At the growth of tablet computers such as Apple’s iPad and mobile devices using Google’s Android system. However, Microsoft is hitting back with the release of Windows 8, an operating system for PCs and mobile devices.

Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer said in a statement: “We delivered solid financial results, even as we prepare for a launch year that will accelerate many of our key products and services.” During the quarter the Windows and Windows Live division posted revenue of $4.7bn, a 6% fall on the previous year. The Entertainment & Devices division saw the sharpest revenue rise, up 15% to $4.2bn.—INTERNET

Microsoft quarterly profits fall slightly

**NEW YORK**, 20 Jan—Microsoft’s profits in the three months to the end of December fell slightly as lower computer sales hit its core Windows business. The world’s largest software firm made a net profit of $6.624bn ($4.27bn), against $6.634bn for its second quarter last year. Revenues rose 5% to $20.89bn, slightly down on some analysts’ expectations.

Microsoft shares rose by 2.1% in after-hours trading. Colin Gillis, an analyst with BGC, said: “People were afraid it was going to be much, much worse.” Tighter cost control and a continuing reduction of losses at the Bing search engine helped boost the figures, he said. Analysts were expecting a fall in business at the Windows division due to slower sales of PCs.

A fall in global computer sales has hurt sales of Microsoft’s Windows operating system.—INTERNET

Sony Ericsson phone shipments of Sony Ericsson’s mobiles were down 20% from a year ago.

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Vienna ball dropped from UNESCO Austrian heritage list

VIENNA, 20 Jan — The Viennese ball has been dropped from a list of Austrian cultural traditions compiled by UN cultural body UNESCO. The move comes after protests from anti-fascist campaigners, who say one event that the Austrian arm of UNESCO included as an example of Vienna’s ball season has links to far-right politics.

Ewa Nowotny, president of Austria’s UNESCO commission, expressed “regret” over the listing of the WKR Ball. The ball’s organizers deny any link to the extreme right.

Every year the ball attracts demonstrations by activists who say it is attended largely by members of far-right groups, and by far-right politicians from across Europe. This year’s event, scheduled for 27 January, is expected to see similar protests.

A “clarified” list of Viennese balls could be reinstated to the list of “intangible cultural traditions”, Ms Nowotny said, according to local media. But she added that UNESCO’s list had to reflect the body’s principles, “which give a special priority to tolerance and respect for other cultures, and to esteem for cultural diversity”.

Nobel Prize-winning Austrian author Elfriede Jelinek had been among those who condemned the WKR Ball’s inclusion on the list. She said the inclusion of the “scandalous event” was a “denigration of Austria”, and called for the Austrian UNESCO commission to resign, reports Die Presse newspaper.

China wealth fund buys nearly 9% of Thames Water

LONDON, 20 Jan — China Investment Corporation (CIC), the country’s $410bn sovereign wealth fund, has bought an 8.68% stake in the UK utility group Thames Water. It marks the fund’s first acquisition in the UK, and follows a visit to China this week by Chancellor George Osborne.

In a short statement CIC said it bought the stake through a wholly-owned subsidiary, but did not reveal a price.

CIC was set up in 2007 to invest some of China’s huge $3.18 trillion in foreign exchange reserves. CIC chairman Lou Jiwei had recently said that the fund company was interested in investing in European and US infrastructure. Thames Water is the UK’s largest water and sewerage company, serving about 14.1 million customers.

Mr Osborne met China’s Vice-Premier Wang Qishan and the heads of CIC and the ICBC bank on Tuesday. He also announced that Britain had agreed to work with Hong Kong to develop the City of London as a major offshore centre of trade in China’s yuan currency.

Megaupload file-sharing site shut down

New York, 20 Jan — Megaupload, one of the Internet’s largest file-sharing sites, has been shut down by officials in the US. The site’s founders have been charged with violating piracy laws. Federal prosecutors have accused it of costing copyright holders more than $500m (£320m) in lost revenue.

The firm says it was diligent in responding to complaints about pirated material.

The news came a day after anti-piracy law protests, but investigators said they were ordered two weeks ago.

The US Justice Department said that Megaupload’s two co-founders Kim Dotcom, formerly known as Kim Schmitz, and Mathias Ortmann were arrested in Auckland, New Zealand along with two other employees of the business at Auckland, New Zealand.

Ortmann were arrested in Auckland, New Zealand along with two other employees of the business at Auckland, New Zealand, and Mathias Ortmann were arrested in Auckland, New Zealand along with two other employees of the business at Auckland, New Zealand.

Apple launches e-textbook tools with new iBooks

Los angeles, 20 Jan — Apple aims to drive the use of electronic textbooks in the classroom by making it easier for publishers to create interactive titles. The company has announced a range of new tools and services which it claims will “reinvent the textbook”.

Leading names in educational resources are involved, including the world’s biggest, UK-based Pearson Publishing.

Apple will compete with existing offerings from Amazon’s Kindle and Barnes and Noble’s Nook device.

Roger Rosner, Apple’s vice president of productivity applications, demonstrated the books, some of which are now available to download, at an event in New York. Also on display was iBooks Author, a free programme that will allow educators and authors to make their own interactive books for the iPad. Apple has also said it has enhanced iBooks — the educational section of its iTunes store — to allow a wider breadth of university level resources. The company’s senior vice president, Philip Schiller, said books aimed at high school students would be priced at $14.99 (£10) or below.

Vienna ball season is currently in full swing, Internet

falling

Megaupload charged users a fee to upload large files anonymously, Internet

Vienna's ball season is currently in full swing, Internet

Depression drugs ‘causing falls’

Loews, 20 Jan — Elderly people who take anti-depressants are more likely to suffer falls if they are given anti-depressants by care home staff, a study claims.

Many dementia patients also suffer from depression and drugs known as selective serotonin uptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are frequently prescribed. But the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology reports that the risk of injuries from falls was tripled.

The Alzheimer’s Society called for more research into alternative treatments. The risk of falls following treatment with older anti-depressants is well

not taking the drug, and this risk rose further if the patient was being given sedative drugs as well. Dr Sterke said that these risks needed to be taken into account when assessing whether anti-depressants were required in prescribing SSRIs to older people with dementia, even at low doses.

Falls are the leading cause of accidental death in the over-65s. — Internet

Mozambique and SA’s Kruger park hit by deadly floods

Maputo, 20 Jan — Four people have died and more than 4,000 others are without shelter after torrential rains in Mozambique. Three days of storms and high winds have hit water and power supplies and destroyed farm animals and cash crops.

The storms have also led neighbouring South Africa to close its famous Kruger National Park, where helicopters have been used to evacuate tourists. Meteorologists warn a stronger weather system is approaching Mozambique, where flooding in 2000 left more than half a million people dead.

It was the worst flooding in Mozambique’s living memory and half a million people were also made homeless.

The worst affected areas are in the southern Gaza and Maputo provinces, the national relief agency says. According to Dulce Chilundo of the Disaster Management Institute, tents and food are being sent to those who have lost their homes. The two others were killed when their homes collapsed — one after a tree hit the house, she told the BBC.

The capital, Maputo, is also affected by the heavy rains with drivers having to manoeuvre through water of up to a metre in some areas, the BBC’s Jose Tembe reports from the city.

The floods in 2000 left more than half a million people homeless. — Internet

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 21 January, 2012
President U Thein Sein gives an interview...

(from page 1)

as political party and soon, she will be contesting in the upcoming by-election. If people elected her, she will be in the Hluttaw as a member of parliament. If she is elected, the Hluttaw will warmly welcome her. Another matter is regarding armed ethnic groups, first we had to build trust with them. We have signed agreements on common agreeable points. There are more things to be done for the internal peace. Whether they have come to the legal fold with or without arms, the main necessary things for them are food, clothing and shelter, health and education for their well-being.

We have to continue to fulfill their needs.

Washington Post: I read in the newspaper. Which group you have reached ceasefire agreement with? Is it Karen group?

President: There are altogether (11) armed ethnic groups. In the first step, we have to discuss with them to achieve mutual understanding and agreement at State level. Then, we assigned separate groups to have meetings with them on behalf of the government. We have been engaged with all groups. We have already signed agreement with some of whom we engaged. However, the peace process is not finished yet. We have to continue our negotiations with them to reach agreement.

Washington Post: Are they making peace after reaching agreement with the government?

President: We will negotiate to get mutual agreement in building peace. In order to achieve lasting peace, every armed group has to come to the legal fold, and live under one law in equality. To reach this stage, we have to take time and negotiate with them.

Washington Post: Do you have any plan to give a position in the cabinet to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi if she won the election and becoming a member of parliament?

President: Firstly, it depends on whether she will be elected by the people or not in the election. If she is elected by the people, she will be in the Hluttaw. Secondly, it is required to get approval from the Hluttaw to submit name for the cabinet member. A cabinet appointment can be made only after getting approval from the Hluttaw. All the current cabinet Ministers are also appointed by the approval of Hluttaw.

Washington Post: Do you want to see Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a cabinet Minister?

President: We will assign anyone as a cabinet Minister who is appointed by the approval of the Hluttaw.

Washington Post: How would you like to see Myanmar-US relations? What do you expect?

President: Currently there have been a lot of engagements between Myanmar and the US. The US Secretary of State has visited here. I’ve received Senator McConnell just this morning. Our expectation is first, we would like to have friendly relations not only with the US but also with all countries of the world. Second, we would like to up grade our diplomatic relations at Ambassador level since we do not have Ambassadorsial level with the United States right now. Third, US and EU have imposed economic sanctions against our country for over 20 years. Therefore, we want easing of economic sanctions. This desire is not only of the President alone but also the desire of the majority of the people.

Washington Post: In recent months, you have done a lot with great effort to successfully implement the reform process. I have heard that a few days ago, the US Secretary of State Ms. Clinton made an announcement that Myanmar-US relations to be normalized and Ambassadors will be appointed again. Have you heard about this news?

President: Yes, I heard. But until now Ambassador has not been appointed yet.

Washington Post: Yes, true. Some matters are slow in Washington. I hope you have heard about this from Senator McConnell.

President: There are (3) concerns of the western countries regarding Myanmar. The first concern is the release of the so-called political prisoners. Second concern is holding of by-elections. Third concern is for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her groups to be included in the political process. These (3) concerns are what the western countries have been asking from us. Now, I have dealt with all the (3) concerns. Myanmar has done her part. The rest is for US and EU to do their parts. Besides, we have done these things, neither by anyone’s recommendation nor by any coercion, as a necessity of the present situation of the country.

Washington Post: Did you do it because of the pressure?

President: No. Not because of pressure. Those are things that must be done in accordance with the changing system.

Washington Post: Did you do such reform because of the sanctions? United States thinks that sanction is effective on Myanmar.

President: Frankly speaking the previous military government did not fall because of the sanctions. The military government transferred the state responsibility after taking necessary reforms to establish a democratic government. Sanction, therefore, did not affect the government. However, the people had suffered. They are hard hit. Sanction had caused many problems to the country. As you see, one fourth of Hluttaw members are from armed forces. Country like Myanmar could not neglect the armed forces.

Washington Post: It is the same in Myanmar. You should study a little on Myanmar Constitution. In accordance with the Constitution, the President appoints the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

President: Right. It is the same in Myanmar. You should study a little on Myanmar Constitution. In accordance with the Constitution, the President appoints the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Washington Post: Next is relationship with DPRK. Recently, Republican Senator Lugar has accused that Myanmar is implementing a nuclear program with the assistance of DPRK. So, I would like to know if there is any likelihood of abolishing military cooperation between Myanmar and DPRK.

President: We have diplomatic relations with DPRK. Apart from this diplomatic relations, there are no other relationship on nuclear or weapons of mass destruction weapons. These are all suspicions on us. Because Myanmar is a country always advocating nuclear non-proliferation in the international forums. Moreover, Myanmar is a country that strictly follows the UN Resolutions. In fact, we have no relations with North Korea in terms of nuclear weapon and other
President U Thein Sein gives an interview...

(from page 8)

President U Thein Sein gives an interview...

We are not a country enough to produce the nuclear weapon. North Korea is not a country in a position to provide assistance to Myanmar. Myanmar is also not a country enough to produce the nuclear weapon. This is just groundless accusation.

Washington Post: Yes, Mr. President, will you allow the IAEA investigation mission to come to Myanmar?

President: First step, we have to sign the IAEA Additional Protocol. This matter is under consideration. We have to submit this matter to Hluttaw. Having the approval from Hluttaw and after signing the IAEA Additional Protocol, further consideration will be taken on the matter of receiving the IAEA investigation mission. For the time being, we have not yet reached the step of signing the said Protocol.

Washington Post: Can you tell me anything that you wish to convey to the American readers?

President: I wish to say that the present government is a government elected by the people to practice the democratic system. We are already on the path of democracy. As we are already on the path of democracy, we will proceed forward and there is no reason to turn back. However, the new government has been in office only for nine months. We have little experience in democracy. Democratic practices are still weak. We could not be compared on par with the American who has practiced democracy for more than hundred years. There are two main requirements to flourish democracy. The first requirement is peace and stability of the country. We have been implementing this. We have also engaged with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We are working with the ethnic groups to achieve peace. The second requirement is the economic development that create job opportunities for the people and improve the socio-economic life of the people. So, if you wish Myanmar to continue practicing democracy, and democracy to flourish, you should work together to lift the economic sanctions. Such a powerful paper like Washington Post should urge for this.

Washington Post: US Senator Mitch McConnell himself is an active person in matters concerning sanction. I’ve learnt that even you yourself, you yourself hold that development of the country is important. Are you going to privatize the country? Or, I wish to know whether you are going to invite foreign investment to Myanmar?

President: Right. We always welcome foreign investments. We have amended the foreign investment laws in order for them to do investment in Myanmar without difficulty. However, only when the sanctions were lifted, they will come and invest with confidence.

Washington Post: But, the investors could also question about the rule of law in Myanmar.

President: Yes. Now, the country is stable. We now have cease fire with armed groups in border areas. In fact, the main difficulty for the investors is the sanctions. There are no other difficulties.

Washington Post: You have accomplished many things within nine months. Furthermore, how are you going to do for freedom of media? Particularly, I would like to know about the Media law of 1960. I wish also to know whether private daily newspaper will be allowed to publish. I would like to know because my family owns the Washington Post.

President: With regard to media, you will also notice. It is not like previous government’s time. Journals have been written freely. However, as I told you we have very little democratic experience. Therefore, while allowing freedom of press, we are taking measures to ensure that freedom with responsibility, freedom with accountability, freedom with rationalism and discipline will be applied. Responsibility and accountability also come with freedom.

Washington Post: Will censor be abolished upon the freedom of media?

President: For the time being, media freedoms is granted. Law will be enacted.

Uncut stamps are also to be issued for the sale to the public. The Internal Revenue Department recently issued a warning that if the contracts are signed with the counterfeit revenue stamps, there will be unofficial deeds for people who will face many losses. Thus, the department said that they should submit subject to signing agreements and types of contract with correct sorts of stamps to the respective Internal Revenue Department.

President: If any person, not assigned duty as stamp seller, sells out the stamps illegally possesses any type of stamp or makes fake stamps or machinery to produce counterfeit stamps and possess them in hands or use the fake stamps as real stamps, they shall face imprisonment or fine. Hence, the people are to take special heed in buying stamps from private shops. Arrangements have been made that various types of stamps at correct prices are available at Internal Revenue Department for the people.

Counterfeit revenue stamps exposed, action taken against offenders

NAV PRT TW, 20 Jan—As some unscrupulous persons print and sell the loose and instant document forms of revenue stamps worth K 5, K 6, K 10 and K 25, which are not officially published by the Government, in some townships, the authorities concerned exposed offenders who committed printing and sales of counterfeit revenue stamps.

Counterfeit revenue stamps exposed, action taken against offenders

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Road Special Group No. 11 camping in Taungkhinyan Village near 123 miles away from Gangaw on Kalay-Gangaw Road is upgrading Gangaw-Kalay Road. Of 111 villages in Gangaw Township, Taungkhinyan Village is the most developed one with Taungkhinyan Dam, plantations, police station, basic education high school (branch), exam centre, telephone station, library and railway station. In the village, the island is famed for its bountiful paddy, and beans and pulses around Yaw region. Required arrangements are being made to have the Internet access in telephone exchange station.

President: We got to splendid Zapa Village before long, we reached Gangaw and the Chin tribes settled in Gangaw-Kalay Road. The Internal Revenue Department recently issued a warning that if the contracts are signed with the counterfeit revenue stamps, there will be unofficial deeds for people who will face many losses. Thus, the department said that they should submit subject to signing agreements and types of contract with correct sorts of stamps to the respective Internal Revenue Department.

Emergence of roads and bridges testifying to national development

Byline & Photos: Kalay-Win Thu

Byline & Photos: Kalay-Win Thu

On my one-day visit in Kalay, I interviewed a superintending engineer about Gangaw-Kalay Road which will be a link among Myanmar, India and Thailand and beneficial to villages along the road. Along the road, we were captivated by well-tendered Pammson Bridge built by road special group No. 11 in 2004, Myaungchaung Bridge built in 2008 and Kabarnee Bridge built by Myanmar Railways. After 15-minute drive, from Kabarnee Bridge, we arrived in Kyantaa Village which is the last village in Kalay region, and also the last one of Gangaw region in upgrading Gangaw-Kalay Road. Thanks to Gangaw-Gangaw Road, Kyantaa Village developed into large one. Later on, we stopped over in Hanthawady Village constituted with over 1000 houses. The village is bustling with life like a city due to railroad and motor road.

Overpass constructed by Road Special Group No. 11 at Kalay-Gangaw border.

Gangaw-Kalay Road constructed by Road Special Group No. 11

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Bulgaria bans shale gas drilling with ‘fracking’ method

**LONDON**, 20 Jan — An insurance scheme for cosmetic surgery patients could be introduced after the PIP breast implants scandal. Sir Bruce Keogh, who is leading the government review into PIP implants, told the BMA scheme would protect consumers. Although there is no clear evidence PIP implants cause harm, the NHS will remove and replace those it fitted. But patients who were treated privately are being told by most clinics they must pay for the procedure. About 40,000 women in Britain have implants made by the French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP). The 3,000 cancer patients who had them for breast reconstruction will have their implants replaced for free by the NHS for compassionate reasons to ease the concern of patients. But that leaves thousands of women—fitted with implants that contain industrial silicone that is not supposed to be in human bodies—with no official recourse for help. The three leading clinics which performed breast implant operations, and which would have used the PIP products, are Transform, the Harley Medical Group and Surgeons. "For the last two years it has been a nightmare," said the consequences of drink and drug—drivers, figures show. Nearly 157,000 people were tested between 1 and drug drivers, by environmentalists. Bulgaria has revoked a shale gas permit granted to US energy giant Chevron. Critics say shale gas drilling can poison underground water and even cause earth tremors. Industry experts say correct drilling is safe. Hydraulic fracking involves releasing gas trapped in rocks by pumping in water mixed with sand and chemicals at high pressure. The technique is used widely in Canada. The Bulgarian drilling ban stipulates a fine of 100m levs (€66m) for any infringements. Last Saturday protestors rallied in several Bulgarian cities urging the government to halt drilling for shale gas. Currently Bulgaria and many of its former communist neighbours rely heavily on imported Russian gas. Chevron had been given a permit to prospect for shale gas in northeastern Bulgaria. Bulgaria has become the second European country after France to ban exploratory drilling for shale gas using the extraction method termed “fracking.” Bulgarian MPs voted overwhelmingly for a ban on Wednesday, following a big street protests by environmentalists. Bulgaria has revoked a shale gas permit granted to US energy giant Chevron. Critics say shale gas drilling can poison underground water and even cause earth tremors. Industry experts say correct drilling is safe. Hydraulic fracking involves releasing gas trapped in rocks by pumping in water mixed with sand and chemicals at high pressure. The technique is used widely in Canada and the US. The Bulgarian drilling ban stipulates a fine of 100m levs (€66m) for drug infringements. Last Saturday protestors rallied in several Bulgarian cities urging the government to halt drilling for shale gas. But patients who were treated privately are being told by most clinics they must pay for the procedure. About 40,000 women in Britain have implants made by the French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP). The 3,000 cancer patients who had them for breast reconstruction will have their implants replaced for free by the NHS for compassionate reasons to ease the concern of patients. But that leaves thousands of women—fitted with implants that contain industrial silicone that is not supposed to be in human bodies—with no official recourse for help. The three leading clinics which performed breast implant operations, and which would have used the PIP products, are Transform, the Harley Medical Group and Surgeons. Simple laboratory-based quantum computers may yet find a way to the desktop.—Internet

Study says Quantum computing could head to ‘the cloud’

**LONDON**, 20 Jan—A novel high-speed, high-security computing technology will be compatible with the “cloud” computing approach popular on the web, a study suggests. Quantum computing will use the inherent uncertainties in quantum physics to carry out fast, complex computations. A report in Science shows the trick can extend to “cloud” services such as Google Docs without loss of security. This “blind quantum computing” can be carried out without anyone ever knowing what the data is. Quantum computing has been heralded as the most powerful potential successor to traditional, electronics-based computing. One of the peculiarities of the branch of physics called quantum mechanics is that objects can be in more than one state at a time, with the states of different objects tied together in ways that even Albert Einstein famously referred to as “spooky.” Instead of the 0 and 1 “bits” of digital computing, quantum computing can make use of these multiple and entangled states to perform calculations at comparatively breathtaking speeds. Other quantum tickery comes in cryptography, the art of encrypting data. Data is encoded in a delicately prepared states—most often those of single particles of light called photons—and the data cannot be “read” without destroying them. Quantum cryptography uses this feature to send the “keys” to decrypting messages with high security. For the quantum computing approach is still in its formative stages, able to carry out only simple calculations—and even that, only the most limited, to the laboratory setting. The world in which both are accessible to consumers has seemed distant.—Internet

WHO says dangerous abortions ‘on the rise’

**GENEVA**, 20 Jan — A significant proportion of abortions are unsafe, with 97% of abortions in Africa described this way. In comparison, 95% of abortions in Latin America were deemed unsafe, falling to 40% in Asia, 15% in Europe, and 1% in Europe. To compile the figures—often a difficult task in countries where abortion is illegal—the researchers used surveys, official statistics and hospital records.

Meghalaya, India: Where women rule, and men are suffragettes

**Meghalaya, India**, 20 Jan — In the small hilly Indian state of Meghalaya, a matrilineal system operates with Prothom Alo (P Alibaba, the world’s largest website. The 3,000 doctors and nurses in the state capital, Shillong, is awash with tartan in the form of the traditional handloom shawls worn ubiquitously. The rainy season is over for the time being and it is Meghalaya’s other major claim to fame that I am here to investigate.—Internet

Drink or drug-driving crackdown sees 7,200 arrested

**LONDON**, 20 Jan — More than 7,200 people in England and Wales were arrested during the Christmas crackdown on drink and drug drivers, figures show. Nearly 157,000 people were tested between 1 December and 1 January. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) says young drivers had a higher rate of offending at 5.7%, compared with 4% of over-25s. Two-thirds of people say the data shows warnings about drink and drug-driving are not working. AA president Edmund King said he had hoped that positive tests across the UK would be lower this year but admitted the weather had played a part in previous figures. He said: “We were worried that the absence of the snow and ice, which had kept many people at home around Christmas in the last two years, would lead to an increase. “For the last two years it has been a simple case that people can’t go out if it’s not safe to drink and drive.” Officers from 43 forces in England and Wales tested drivers at all times of the day and night. Deputy Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police Suzette Davenport, who is ACPO lead for roads policing, said the consequences of drink and drug driving were far-reaching. She said: “It’s not only socially irresponsible but it raises serious issues for those that ignore the risks. Those convicted are likely to face a lengthy driving ban and possible loss of jobs and livelihoods, with even some facing imprisonment.” This year police forces undertook intelligence-led testing. The result was that a larger percentage of the smaller sample of drivers tested failed the test.
Canada freestyle skier Sarah Burke dies

NEW YORK, 20 Jan — Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke has died from injuries sustained in a training accident, a family spokeswoman says. Burke, 29, helped bring freestyle skiing events to the Winter Olympics, and was considered a gold medal contender for the 2014 Games. She was injured in a superpipe accident at Park City in the US State of Utah. Tests showed the freestyle skier sustained “irreversible damage to her brain” her spokeswoman said. Burke was airlifted to hospital after her crash on 1 January.

The four-time Winter X Games champion crashed on the same superpipe where snowboarder Kevin Pearce later died down and rain started falling, the officials say. There were no reports of any injuries. The blaze, which broke out earlier on Thursday, is now burning to the south of Reno, the officials say. “It’s moving at a very fast rate,” Washoe County’s Deputy Sheriff Armando Avina was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

He said that officials were going door to door in an affected area, urging residents to evacuate their homes. A stretch of US Highway 395 — where the fire started — remains closed. Last November, a fire Nevada destroyed 25 homes and forced nearly 10,000 people to leave the area. One man died fleeing his home and 16 were injured. — Internet

Lower weight linked to autism

EVAston, 20 Jan — Lower birth weight is an important environmental factor contributing to the risk of autism spectrum disorder, researchers say.

“Our study of discordant twins — twin pairs in which only one twin was affected by autism spectrum disorder — found birth weight to be a very strong predictor of autism spectrum disorder,” lead author Molly Lesch of Northwestern University said in a statement.

Prior studies showed when one identical twin had autism spectrum disorder, the other twin was much more likely to have autism spectrum disorder as well.

“Because identical twins share virtually 100 percent of their genes, this is strong evidence for the role of genetic factors in autism,” said Losh.

“Yet it is not 100 percent the case that autism spectrum disorder affects both identical twins in a twin pair.”

When only one twin is affected by autism spectrum disorder in identical twin pairs, it suggests environmental factors may play a role, either independently or in interaction with autism risk genes, Losh said.

“And because autism is a developmental disorder impacting brain development early on, it suggests that prenatal and perinatal environmental factors may be of particular importance,” she said. — Internet

Costa Concordia disaster: Crew urged to ‘return to cabins’

Rome, 20 Jan — A video has emerged showing the crew of the Costa Concordia reassuring passengers nothing was wrong, after the cruise ship had begun taking in water. In the amateur footage, a crew member says “everything is under control” and a generator problem will be fixed. She asks passengers to go to their cabins. The vessel ran aground off Italy’s coast with some 4,200 people on board and capsized. At least 11 people died.

It is thought the delay in doing this increased the ship may have cost lives. Earlier on Thursday, Italian media broadcast what they say was the first phone conversation between port officials and crew of the Costa Concordia — about 50 minutes after the ship hit rocks. In the exchange, a crew member is heard saying it is experiencing only a blackout. Twenty-one people are still missing, and hopes to find any of them alive are fading fast.

The latest amateur footage was posted online by Italy’s Rainews24 on Thursday. In it, a female crew member is heard telling passengers: “We kindly ask you to return to your cabins, or go for a walk in the hall, if you like.” She says that she is delaying a message from the commander. “We’ll resolve the electrical problem that we have with the generator. Everything will be fine. If you want to stand here, it’s fine. “But I’m kindly asking you to go back to your rooms, where you’ll be seated and safe.”

More than 200 firefighters are battling the fire, which has grown to nearly five square miles (13km square). Strong winds later died down and rain threatened dozens more, local officials say.

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Bee Gee Robin Gibb to make classical debut

LONDON, 20 Jan — Bee Gees star Robin Gibb is to make his classical debut with an album about the sinking of the Titanic. The 62-year-old has collaborated with his son, RJ, on The Titanic Requiem to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the disaster.

Gibb, who has recently suffered ill health, said recording the album helped him “on the road to recovery”. He will also lead a concert performance of the album on 10 April, exactly 100 years after the Titanic set sail. It sank off the coast of Newfoundland five days later, with the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

Gibb’s requiem is played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and features the RSPV Voices Choir, in addition to vocals from tenor Mario Frangoulis and British choral Isabel Suckling. One of the pieces, Don’t Cry Alone, also features Gibb’s first studio performance since last year’s charity single I’ve Gotta Get A Message To You. Released for a Royal British Legion appeal, it was a re-recording of one of the Bee Gees’ first hits with a trio of soldiers.

The Bee Gees — formed by Gibb and his brothers Maurice and Barry — are one of the most successful bands in pop history, with hits like Massachusetts and Night Fever. They also wrote dozens of songs for other artists, including Islands In The Stream and Chain Reaction.

Mr Ely, a former SAS soldier, used a sledgehammer and chisel to remove the portion when the statue was brought to the UK by the firm’s founder Nigel Ely before being released. He has been quizzed over the matter is resolved. Mr Thorpe was questioned after suspicion of breach of Section 8 of the Iraq (UN Sanctions) Order 2003 for being involved in inquiries. Under the order, anyone possessing Iraqi cultural property must give it to the police.

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**GLORY VOY NO (01/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie and be stored therein.**

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

**Phone No: 256924/256916/256919/256921**

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**A380 wing brackets**

*PARIS, 20 Jan — Airbus found new cracks on metal brackets inside the wings of two A380 superjumbo jets after inspections conducted following the 2008 incident in which a Qantas A380's engine disintegrated in flight, the company said on Thursday. The cracks were found on a limited number of non-critical brackets inside the wings of six or seven A380s, Airbus said in a statement. These “wing rib feet,” as the part is known, connect the wing’s ribs to its skin.**

**Cornwall woman ’lucky’ to escape car and train crash**

*London, 20 Jan — A woman escaped uninjured after her car and a train collided at a level crossing near Newquay in Cornwall. Police who were called to the crossing at Trencreek Road, Trencreek at 19:40 GMT said no-one was believed to have been injured. The railway line is a local branch line and the collision involved a single carriage First Great Western train. Driver Sarah Frampton of St Newlyn East said she had not seen the warning and was “lucky to be alive.” She said: “I’ve been rushed off my feet all day and was not aware that there was a warning at the crossing. “I don’t often come down that road. I was travelling fairly slowly and out of the blue saw the train. “I slammed on the brakes, but it was coming too fast and hit me. It was quite overwhelming how close I was. I am very thankful to be alive.”*
A British couple has captured photos of a young chimp called Joya in the Republic of Guinea throwing a tantrum after having to wait for her food. Hunger is one of those things that can drive you wild – as this greedy little chimp knows only too well.

When Joya’s food didn’t come quick enough, she was in no mood to monkey around and started throwing rocks at her friends and family instead. But before long, a more senior chimp stepped in to put the ravenous six-year-old in her place.

He confiscated Joya’s makeshift missiles and gave her a clip round the ear before making her sit down and be quiet. The incredible scene in Bossou Forest, Republic of Guinea, was captured by British photographers Anup Shah and Fiona Rogers.

Anup, from Watford, Hertfordshire, said: ‘I was like watching a naughty girl being told off by her mum. ‘The hierarchical structure of chimpanzee communities means the elders eat first, but Joya got bored waiting for her turn and decided to make mischief.’

Anupshah’s wife Fiona were in Guinea to document the work of the Japanese researchers who have been observing the chimps since 1976.

**SRK to attend Don 2 screening at Berlinoale**

**Mumbai, 20 Jan** Shah Rukh Khan fans in Germany are in for a treat. The actor’s latest release Don 2: The King Is Back will be screened at the 62nd Berlin International Film Festival, to be held 9 to 19 February, and he will attend the event also. Also, the movie, produced by Excel Entertainment, will have its mainstream theatrical release with a dubbed version in German.

Shah Rukh, along with his co-star Priyanka Chopra, director Farhan Akhtar and producer Ritesh Sidhwani, will attend the screening, which can only be accessed by journalists and invited guests.

The team is also expected to hold a press conference, which can only be attended by journalists accredited by the Berlinoale.

Besides the German release on 16 February, the film will also hit theatres in Russia, Turkey, Israel, France, China and Korea.

**New Bruce Springsteen album out 6 March**

Other songs on the 11-track album include “Death to My Hometown,” “This Depression” and “Easy Money.”

The announcement was made Thursday morning on the rocker’s website. Springsteen’s manager, Jon Landau, who is also the executive producer of the album, calls the writing on the disc “some of the best of his career.”

“Wrecking Ball” is Springsteen’s 17th album and the first since the death of E Street Band saxophonist Clarence Clemons last year. Springsteen and the band are due to go on tour this year, but it hasn’t been revealed who may step in for Clemons.

**Cute alert: Cheeky young chimp throws tantrum after getting hungry**

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Anup and his wife Fiona were in Guinea to document the work of the Japanese researchers who have been observing the chimps since 1976.

**Hidden drugs sold as unclaimed property**

Containers holding millions of dollars worth of illegal drugs shipped from China to Australia were sold as unclaimed property, police said.

Investigators have tracked down 53 of 54 containers, the Sydney Morning Herald reported. Each held about $3 million in heroin or pseudoephedrine packed into tea canisters, police said.

The canisters with the drugs were hidden in the frames of the containers, and their new owners did not know they were there, police said. Most were bought by farmers and small business owners in New South Wales to use for storage.

Detective Superintendent Steve Puskov said the missing container has been through several owners. While investigators say it is probably still in the Sydney area, it could have traveled much farther.

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Federer, Nadal into 4th round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan—Roger Federer made the most of his rare opportunities Friday against the fastest server to team cashing in with some classic returns in a 7-6(0), 7-5, 6-3 win over Rafa Nadal to reach the fourth round of the Australian Open.

The four-time Australian Open champion fended off Nadal’s set point in the tiebreaker with a return that hit the bottom of the 10 Croatian to the net, then lobbed just over him.

The match was a really complete match, fully solid one. He will play either John Isner or Feliciano Lopez in the next round.

Nadal, who won the 2009 Australian title but has injuries in the last two years,

World No 4 Rafael Nadal of Spain
felt a crack and then sharp pain in his right knee while sitting in a chair at his hotel on the weekend and was concerned that he might not be able to play in his opening match.

Medical tests didn’t show any serious damage, and he has had the knee heavily taped in his first two matches so far.

while Mchale could convert only 1 out of 11 break-points.

The experienced Australian had a 6-2, 6-4 win earlier Friday over Slovaks’ Lukas Lacko to advance without dropping a set or show any signs that a freak knee injury is bothering him.

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World No 2 Roger Federer of Switzerland
I’m gonna lose that point.

“It was unlucky,” Karlovic said. “I didn’t really expect him to do that. I was there, I just misjudged how much I was jumping. If I would have won that, everything would be different but that’s life.”

Federer is now 10-1 against Karlovic and looking increasingly confident at Melbourne Park, where he has collected four of his 16 Grand Slam titles. He and Rafael Nadal are on the same side of the draw at a major for the first time since 2005 and could meet in the semifinals.

Second-ranked Nadal had a 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 win earlier Friday over Slovaks’ Lukas Lacko to advance without dropping a set or show any signs that a freak knee injury is bothering him.

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Welfare applications

For those unfamiliar, Welfare payments are made in the US to individuals and families with income below a level. The following quotations are taken from actual letters received by the Welfare Department in applications for support of receiving payments.

“I am forwarding my marriage certificate and my 3 children to you. They are a mistake as you can see. My husband got his project cut off about two weeks ago and I haven’t had any relief since. Unless I get my husband’s money pretty soon, I will be forced to lead an immoral life.

You have made a childless boy to a girl, will this make any difference? I have no children yet, as my husband is a truck driver and works night and day. I want money as quick as to get it. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn’t do me any good. If things don’t improve, I will have to send for another doctor. In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.”

This is my eighth child. What are you going to do about it. Please find for if my husband is dead. Then I am now living with can’t do anything until he knows.

I am very much annoyed to find out that you have branded my son illiterate. This is a dirty lie as I was married a week before he was born.

I cannot get sick pay. I have six children can you tell me why?

I am glad to report that my husband who is missing is dead.

Unless I get my husband’s money pretty soon, I will be forced to lead an immoral life.

You have made a childless boy to a girl, will this make any difference? I have no children yet, as my husband is a truck driver and works night and day. I want money as quick as to get it. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn’t do me any good. If things don’t improve, I will have to send for another doctor. In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.”

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Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(21-1-12 09:30 am) MST
Oversea Transmission
* News
* Hiker’s Journey “Inlay Lake”
* News
* Myanmar Beauty and His Creation (Episode-3)
* News
* Today’s Efficient Youth (OBF student)
* News
* Winter Crops
* Song for You
* Nipa Palm Forest
* News
* Annual Memento Exhibition of Royal Hambha Art Gallery
* News
* Music Gallery
* Myanmar Teak in Higher Demand
* News
* Secret Places for Yummy Food “Mushkhhur”
* Culture Stage
* News
* Ananda Gaphay
* Myanmar Movies
* “Whom do you love most?”

MYANMAR TV
(21-1-12) (Saturday) 7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
2. Nice & Sweet Song
3. 2011 Sports Yearend
4. Martial Song
5. Game For Children
6. TV Drama Series
7. TV Drama Series
8. TV Drama Series
9. Cultural Dance
10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

Next Week
11. International Science News
5:45 pm
12. Beautiful **ASEAN National Spirit
7:00 pm
13. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
14. News
15. Cartoon Series
13. TV Drama Series

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Weather forecast for 21st January, 2012

Generally fair weather in the whole country.

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Knowledge on crime reduction disseminated

YEDASHE, 20 Jan—Myanmar Police Force gives educative talks on crime reduction during the Crime Free Month in rural areas.

At a similar talk in Sping Village of Yedashe Township, Toungoo District Police Station Commander Police Lt-Col Win Sein explained eradication of gambling and reduction of heavy criminal cases. Yedashe Township Judge U Nyunt Lin talked about abiding by laws and disadvantages of gambling and Township Law Officer Daw Cho Cho Htar about reduction of sexual abductions, anti-human trafficking and rules for traffic accidents. —Kyemon

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Stake driven for construction of bridge

MEIKHILA, 20 Jan.—The stake driving ceremony for construction of a wooden bridge was held in Uyinong Village of Meikhila Township on 15 January. The bridge, 13 feet wide and 40 feet long, will link Uyinong Village and Seinpyayunya Village of the township.

Township Development Affairs Committee will start construction of the bridge in January 2012 and a plan was set to complete it in March, spending K 12.5 million on construction. —Kyemon
Ministry of Construction and Settlement and Housing Department of Human the MoU signed between
in line with the project-4 of technology and machinery
and hand over the construction of the Concrete lay cornerstones for Programme, a ceremony to the UN Habitat Development Under the arrangements of 13th Waning of Pyatho 1373 ME
to Director-General U Aung Win of DHSHD.

An engineer of UN Habitat also explained technology on construction of low-cost housings with the use of concrete blocks and drawing of standards and norms for earthquake and storm resistant buildings.

The resident representative handed over the machinery to Director-General U Aung Win of DHSHD.

Also present on the occasion were Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers for Construction U Soe Tin and U Kyaw Lwin, Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Soe, departmental officials, responsible persons of UN Habitat and guests.

The Union minister, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party viewed practical works in making concrete blocks, production process of the block with the use of moulds and quality control of the concrete block with the use of hydraulic test machine.

Next, Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Deputy

London, 20 Jan—Wayne Rooney says Sunday's clash between Arsenal and Manchester United is not just a shoot-out between him and Robin van Persie.

Between them they have netted 40 goals in all competitions this season, with van Persie scoring 22 times and Rooney 18, and many feel whichever forward comes out on top will decide the match.

Sky Bet Odds
Who will come out on top? Rooney to score a brace 7/1, Van Persie to score a brace 5/1. Barclays Premier League Top Goalscorer: Rooney 11/2, RVP even. Bet Now

Rooney thinks there is a lot more to the game than that but does concede United will need to keep the Dutchman quiet at the weekend.

He said: “It’s not about me and Van Persie. It is about us against Arsenal. That is what we will be focusing on.

“[It’s not just] a shoot-out between him and me. It’s about us playing as a team and getting the three points. We know Arsenal will come here to win but if we get the first goal and get the three points we can put pressure on them.”

Barclays Premier League Top Goalscorer: Rooney 11/2, Van Persie 7/1

Rooney - It's not me v RVP
Striker says Sunday’s game is not a shoot-out

“There are a lot of top strikers in the league; Van Persie, Sergio Aguero, Yakubu is playing really well. Live on Sky Sports Arsenal v Manchester United
Arsenal vs Manchester United
Arsenal v Man Utd January 22, 2012 3:30pm Sky Sports HD 1

Remote Record
“Van Persie has scored a lot of goals and is playing really well,” added the 26-year-old. “He will be the biggest threat for Arsenal on Sunday.

Van Persie and Ramsey are certainly the two who have stood out for them this season.”

When the two sides met in August, the Red Devils thumped the Gunners 8-2, with Rooney scoring a hat-trick at Old Trafford.

Rooney admitted the magnitude of the result didn’t sink in until well after the game adding: “We knew it was a great day for us and a bad one for them.”

“[It’s not] only afterwards that you realise what a win it was.” The result forced Arsenal to go into the transfer market and strengthen their squad as they flirted with the relegation zone. Since then the Gunners have rebuilt their season and are just four points behind fourth placed Chelsea. —Internet

Road, bridge open in Meiktila to hail 65th Anniversary Union Day

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint delivers an address at ceremony to lay cornerstones for Concrete Block-used Sample Building and hand over technology and machinery.—NMA

IMF Mission calls on Union Energy Minister

Why birds of a feather don’t always stick together

Bolt to race in Rome in preparation for Olympics

MoU on 17th State level meeting of Myanmar-India Civil Authorities signed

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Director-General U Aung Win and the resident representative of UN Habitat laid cornerstones for the building.

Awards, the opening of the urban region development research office which is the project (1) of the MoU signed between DHSHD and UN Habitat, was held at the DHSHD Don Bogyoke Aung San Street.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister, the Chief Minister and party together with responsible persons of UN Habitat viewed round decoration and displays of the office.

IMF Mission calls on Union

Energy Minister

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Jan—Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day, road, bridge and signboard were opened in Zaungchangon Ward in Meiktila on 13 January.

Officials opened the road and bridge and Township Administrator U Kyaw Swe unveiled the signboard of ward.

With the contribution of well-wishers, Zaungchangon Road which was 15 feet wide and 300 feet long in the past was upgraded to a 27-B-wide and 1000-B-long road.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament continues

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Jan—The second round knockout matches of the 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament 2012 continued at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Ground toady.

In the morning matches, Information Ministry beat Rail Transportion Ministry 3-1 and Sports Ministry trounced Transport Ministry 3-0. Ministry of Finance and Revenue won over Home Affairs Ministry 3-2 and Border Affairs Ministry routed Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry 3-0 in the afternoon matches.

Tomorrow’s fixtures set out as quarterfinal matches such as Defence Ministry vs. Industry Ministry; Science and Technology Ministry vs. Construction Ministry; Information Ministry vs. Sports Ministry; and Border Affairs Ministry vs. Finance and Revenue Ministry.—MNA

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