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

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

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

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

The project needs 55 GSM base transceiver stations, with some already established. Remaining stations will start trial operation in February, the Region manager reported to the Union minister who promised to provide more workforce and machines for completing the project ahead of schedule in order to enable the people to use mobile phones at low cost earlier than expected.

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

MWAF donates cash, stationery to youth training schools

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

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

Preventive measures against bird flu inspected

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

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

Myanma Alin

Farmers of Toungoo nurtures Palethwe paddy strain

TOUNGOO, 21 Jan—Palethwe hybrid paddy strain is being nurtured in Toungoo.

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

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

Repeated label for smoking cessation drug Champix

Eat healthy to live well

Significant night temperature (21-1-2012)

Maubin-Twantay tarred road opens

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

Tulsi can detoxify fluoridated water

Global radio experts float new mobile phone standard
Kayin State Chief Minister addresses work coordination meetings

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

The state chief minister on 7 January attended a meeting on road and bridge construction in the state and an agricultural and livestock breeding development meeting.

Then, the chief minister and party inspected ploughing and cultivation of hybrid paddy on 25-acre land through irrigation water from Yebok dam near Hillon Village in Hlinwe Township and cultivation of 50 acres of Hsimthhla paddy and 50 acres of Yadatore paddy.

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

**MN4**

Dy Health Minister visits hospitals in Thongwa, Kayan

**NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—**Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint yesterday morning inspected out-patient ward, medical wards, X-ray room and laboratory of Thongwa Township People’s Hospital (50-bed) in Yangon Region. At Kayan Township Hospital (50-bed), he looked into progress of new patient ward, medical wards, X-ray room and laboratory. While at Thongwa and Kayan hospitals, the Deputy Minister met personnel and gave instructions on reduction of mother and infant mortality rates and control of infectious diseases.

**MN4**

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

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

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

Patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Ohnma Lwin, Daw Khin Mar Nwe and General Secretary Dr Ko Khun Yu presented prizes to the winners in the women’s singles Kata events, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine National Race U Zaw Aye Maung, winners in the men’s Kumite event, Dr Ye Naing Win and special prizes to the winners in women’s and men’s junior events. President of Myanmar Karate-do Federation Dr Win Zaw and executive of JCCY Mr Sugiyo Hana gave Sanyo flat 21-inch TV to three gold and one bronze medalist men’s best player Kyaw Kyaw Tun (Forestry) and three gold and one bronze medalist women’s best player Swe Swe Aung.

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

**MN4**

District News

Teak, hardwood saplings in nursery

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

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

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

**District IPRD**

Dedaye gets new rural gravel road

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

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

Bridge to be constructed to link villages in Meiktila

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

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

The bridge is a Bailey type and 13 feet in width, 40 feet in length and 17 in height. It costs K 12.5 million, and is expected to complete by March.—**MN4**

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 22 January, 2012**

Kayin State Chief Minister addresses work coordination meetings
NATO general hopes Pakistan reopen supply route soon

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

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

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

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

Iran shuts down shops selling Barbie dolls

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

A ban on the sale of the Barbies, designed to look like young Western women, was imposed in the mid-1990s. In its latest report, Mehr quoted an unidentified police official as saying authorities confiscated the dolls from Tehran stores in a “new phase” of the campaign. In 1996, a government-backed children’s agency called Barbie a “Trojan horse,” sneaking in Western influences such as makeup and revealing clothes.

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

NZ police raid file-sharing site founder’s mansion

WELLINGTON, 21 Jan—New Zealand police raided several homes and businesses linked to the founder of Megaupload.com, a giant Internet file-sharing site shut down by US authorities, on Friday and seized guns, millions of dollars, and nearly $5 million in luxury cars, officials said.

Police arrested founder Kim Dotcom and three Megaupload employees on US accusations that they facilitated millions of illegal downloads of films, music and other content costing copyright holders at least $500 million in lost revenue.

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

Although the company is based in Hong Kong and Dotcom lives in New Zealand, some of the alleged pirated content was hosted on leased servers in Virginia, and that facilitated millions of illegal downloads of films, music and other content costing copyright holders at least $500 million in lost revenue.

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Six killed in Afghanistan were Hawaii-based Marines

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

US Rep Colleen Hanabusa, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said Friday she’s saddened to hear of the deaths. Her spokeswoman, Ashley Nagakoa Boylan, said the congresswoman was notified Thursday evening that all six Marines were Hawaii-based.

“All who have called Hawaii home are part of our island ohana, and every loss like this touches us deeply,” Hanabusa said in a statement, using the Hawaiian word for family.

The military hasn’t identified those killed. But John Riddick, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, said his son was among them.

Mexico catches alleged Sinaloa cartel gun runner

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

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

Four French soldiers die in Afghanistan shooting

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

Mr Sarkozy said that the French soldiers shot dead were “literally murdered”. A Taleban spokesman said it was not clear if the attacker was a member of their group but described him as a conscience Afghan soldier”. Thursday’s incident, in the Tagab district, took place at 05:00 local time (03:30 GMT), according to French media reports.

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

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

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

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

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

Balance your food choices — Don’t eat too much of any one thing. You don’t have to give up foods like hamburgers, french fries and ice cream to eat healthy. You just have to be smart about how often and how much of them you eat. Your body needs nutrients like protein, carbohydrates, fat and many different vitamins and minerals such as vitamins C and A, iron and calcium from a variety of foods. Balancing food choices from the Food Guide Pyramid and checking out the Nutrition Facts Panel on food labels will help you get all these nutrients.

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

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

Updated label for smoking cessation drug Champix

Microsoft and IBM push Dow up, Google falls

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

Microsoft said sales of Xbox games and Office software helped push revenue up in the last quarter of 2011. IBM credited better sales of software and services and retained earnings growth for the year. Microsoft rose 6 percent and IBM rose 4 percent. The Dow rose 96.50 points to close at 12,720.48. That’s a gain of 0.8 percent. Without the huge gains in IBM and Microsoft, the Dow would have risen just 24 points.

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

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

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

Probe of Chevy Volt fires closed

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

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

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

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

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

Home sales hit 11-month high

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

Sales of both multifamily and single-family homes rose. “Teansim that the housing sector may be slowly picking itself up off of the mat,” said Omar Sharif, an economist at RBS in Stamford, Connecticut.

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

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

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

In the trial experienced “serious heart-related events,” Health Canada said in closing the two-year investigation of Chevy Volt battery fires.

The government on Friday announced that it was closing its investigation of the Volt. The health agency has completed a review of the Pfizer drug after evaluating data from a quit-smoking clinical trial involving 700 smokers with cardiovascular disease. Approximately half of the participants in the trial received Champix, while 350 received a placebo number of Champix users in the trial experienced “serious heart-related events,” Health Canada says the study wasn’t adequately designed to test the cardiovascular safety of drug. The small study size combined with other study design weaknesses make it impossible to draw conclusions based on these data,” Health Canada said in a release.— Internet

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

Health Tip: Store insulin properly

Insulin is a lifesaver for many people with diabetes, but it must be stored correctly. The American Diabetes Association offers these guidelines for proper storage of insulin:

• Insulin typically is stored in the refrigerator, but it may be more painful when injected this way. Insulin stored at room temperature will last about a month.

• Don’t keep your insulin in extremely hot or extremely cold temperatures.

• Never keep insulin in the car, in direct sunlight or in the freezer.

• Check the bottle’s expiration date, and discard any insulin that’s expired.

• Inspect the bottle before inserting the syringe to make sure the insulin looks as it should.

• Don’t use insulin that has formed any crystals or clumps.— Internet

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

The health agency has completed a review of the Pfizer drug after evaluating data from a quit-smoking clinical trial involving 700 smokers with cardiovascular disease. Approximately half of the participants in the trial received Champix, while 350 received a placebo.

A “slightly increased number” of Champix users in the trial experienced “serious heart-related events,” Health Canada says the study wasn’t adequately designed to test the cardiovascular safety of drug. The small study size combined with other study design weaknesses make it impossible to draw conclusions based on these data,” Health Canada said in a release.— Internet

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

LONDON, 21 Jan—Scientists have discovered a new flowering plant belonging to the scarce Medinilla group on Fiji’s Kadavu island, the International Union for Conservation of Nature said on Friday. “Although the plant was first found in August of 2010, it has taken this long to go through the process and verify it,” IUCN spokeswoman Ewa Magiera told AFP.

The plant was found during a biodiversity assessment of the Nakasaleka district carried out as part of IUCN’s Water and Nature Initiative (WANI), Magiera said. There are some 193 known species of Medinilla in Madagascar, Africa, South Asia and the Pacific Islands, according to the conservation body. Eleven can only be found in Fiji, among them the Tagimoucia flower, the country’s floral emblem.

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

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

Tulsi can detoxify fluoridated water

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan—It could come as a great relief to millions of people living in fluoridated areas. Initial fluoride concentration of 5 ppm, it was observed that maximum 78 per cent of fluoride can be removed at a dose of 75 mg of fresh basil leaves for a sample of 100 mg/100 ml of 20 minutes,” Mr Kamble said. Fresh basil stems with a dosage of 100 mg/100 ml had a removal efficiency of 75 per cent, whereas for dry leaves and dry stems at a dose of 250 mg/100 ml, the removal efficiency was 78 per cent and 74 per cent respectively. “This makes the fluoride concentration within the permissible limit of Indian standard for drinking water (IS 0508, Fluoride 1.0 ppm).”

The absorption of fluoride ion was affected by pH, quantity and size of tulsi used and fresh and dried tulsi leaves, stem pieces and extract from the fresh leaves. In fluoridated soil and water, initial fluoride concentration of 5 ppm, it was observed that maximum 78 per cent of fluoride can be removed at a dose of 75 mg of fresh basil leaves for a sample of 100 mg/100 ml of water. The quality of the treated water will be on par with the norms prescribed for fluoride content by the Bureau of Indian Standards. —INTERNET

Global radio experts float new mobile phone standard

GENEVA, 21 Jan—Global radio experts have approved radio standards that are to usher in a new mobile phone operating system to replace third-generation or 3G technology, the International Telecommunication Union announced on Friday. The newly-adopted “IMT Advanced Spectrum” would result in faster and better quality mobile services, said Francois Rancy, director of the ITU’s radio communication bureau.

Rancy addressed media on the closing day of the organisation’s Radio Communication Assembly in Geneva. “Many of the (current) global standards are previous recommendations adopted at the Radiocom- mission have natural bio- absorbent properties, that is, the leaves and stem of this Indian herb serve as a natural magnet to adsorb (attach) fluoride molecules in water. All one has to do is dip the leaves or stem of the tulsi in a glass of water for 20 minutes, remove the plant pieces and drink the water.

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

A hacker group anonymous fights for Internet freedom

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

The Department of Justice attack on file-sharing site MegaUpload proves adequate tools already exist to fight online file-sharing. The act of downloading copyrighted material without the permission of the owner is not a new idea. Exercises such as “takedown notices” have been used by the industry to combat piracy.

Chris Holmes and Lee Threapleton spotted the new world while working on a project to find planets beyond our solar system, publicised by Prof Brian Cox in his Stargazing Live series, the Guardian reported. The genuineness of their discovery is confirmed by planetary scientists, then the heavenly body, thought to be gaseous and around the size of Neptune, will be named “Threapleton Holmes B”, the newspaper said. In fact, the pair made the discovery after spotting changes in light patterns in an image from NASA’s Kepler space telescope. The unusual patterns suggested a planet appears to be orbiting a sun called SPH1006540, which lies between 600 and 3,000 light years away.

The image of the new planet has been posted online at ‘Planethunters.org’ and Oxford University project that asks the public to sift through time-lapse data from NASA in the hope of new discoveries. Holmes of University of Manchester explained: “I’ve never even had a telescope. I’ve had a passing interest in where things are in the sky, but never had any more knowledge about it than that. Being the one to find something is a very exciting possibility.” —CD

Cameraless iPhone 4, iPhone 4S on sale in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Jan—The camera is normally a big selling point, but in Singapore Apple’s iPhone 4 and 4S are now available without the function — to cater to military personnel banned from taking images due to national security. The iPhone 4S with camera has a 5-megapixel camera and a 720p video camera. It also has an improved microphone, a new front-facing “Facetime” camera and can upload videos to YouTube. The iPhone 4 without the camera is available at S$798, while the iPhone 4S is priced at S$988.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chan nominated WHO Director-General for 2nd term

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

Chan, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong government Donald Tsang congratulated Chan on her nomination. “The people of Hong Kong take pride in her senior position in the WHO and her contribution to global health,” Tsang said.

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

Oil rig arrives in Cuba to begin deep water exploration

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

But there is concern in the US that a deep water spill could devastate the coast of Florida. The Chinese-built rig — known as Scarabeo 9 — could be seen from the Cuban capital Havana as it moved slowly west.

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

Cuba already produces some oil from small onshore and coastal deposits but depends for most of its fuel on subsidised imports from its ally, Venezuela. If confirmed, the estimated offshore deposits could turn Cuba into an oil exporter and transform its troubled economy, fuelled by television series that go for families,” Larry Page, Google co-founder and chief executive officer, said in an interview with Fortune.

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

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Jan — Google on Thursday was named as the best place to work in the United States. The Mountain View, California-based Internet search giant, hired about 7,000 people in the year of 2011, the most intense hiring spree in its 13-year history, which moved it up from fourth to first on Fortune’s annual list of the 100 best companies to work for.

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

Almost one in three parents said they were quizzed by their curious offspring on a daily basis. The questions often left parents embarrassed by their own failure to provide answers to their children’s inquiries.

So what makes it so hard for parents to answer their children’s science questions?

Many parents said they were frustrated by their children’s enthusiasm for science and maths; not enough science and maths was not always shared by their parents, with more than half of those surveyed saying the subjects filled them with dread.

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

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

Google named best place to work in US

SOME ANSWERS FROM BIG BANG FAIR

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

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

Internet

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

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

Internet

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

GLOBAL AIRLINES OFFER DELICIOUS DISHES FOR THEIR FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS. — XINHUA

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

BIRDS FLYING ALONG THE CONFUCIUS TEMPLE AND QINHUAI RIVER SCENIC BELT, TO GREET THE COMING OF CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WHICH FALLS ON 23 JANUARY THIS YEAR.

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

What people often focus on are the flashy, showy things, like the massages and the food, which are important to us.

But they are not the real story about what makes our culture work,” Larry Page, Google’s senior vice president for people operations, told San Jose Mercury News, a daily newspaper in Silicon Valley.

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

They tend to return the favor to the company. And that goes for families,” Larry Page, Google co-founder and chief executive officer, said in an interview with Fortune.
Nigeria’s Kano rocked by multiple explosions

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

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

Third baby dies after Belfast hospital outbreak

BELFAST, 21 Jan — A third baby has died after an outbreak of a deadly infection in a Belfast hospital, it was confirmed on Friday. The deaths at the city’s Royal Maternity Hospital occurred in the last week to 10 days, but a possible link to the pseudomonas bacteria was only discovered recently. The first two babies were born prematurely. The latest death came as staff began an investigation to trace the killer bug at Northern Ireland’s largest maternity unit, which will now undergo a deep clean. The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust said the deaths, in the neonatal unit, may be linked to the outbreak of the infection, which can cause severe breathing and other problems.

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

Singapore Airlines makes Airbus checks

SINGAPORE, 21 Jan — Singapore Airlines (SIA) has started the process of checking two thirds of its 15-plane Airbus A380 fleet as the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) warned of new cracks on the superjumbo’s wings. A spokesman for the state carrier told AFP: “The safety of our customers and crew is our number one priority and we will ensure that we take whatever action is needed for the continued safe operation of our A380 fleet.”

SIA’s checks come as the EASA on Friday recommended checks on 30 out of 67 A380s in service around the world after new cracks were discovered in the superjumbo’s wings. “Following an unscheduled internal inspection of an A380 wing, some rib feet have been found with cracks originating from the rib to skin panel attachment holes,” the EASA said in a directive.

No prosecutions over Taleban finger removal

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

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

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

Denmark launches European Year for Active Ageing

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

“Life does not end at 60, and society acknowledges that senior citizens have much to offer,” the Danish EU presidency said in a statement. “This is what active ageing is all about: getting more out of life and staying in good health. This is important both in the labor market, at home and in society,” it added. As Europeans are living more healthily and longer, and as these older citizens possess experience and skills, which have economic value, Europe is keen to benefit from its changing demographics.

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

US initial jobless claims dive to lowest level since April 2008

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

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

Nav Pyi Taw, 21 Jan—Chief Minister of Ayeaywady Region U Thein Aung received a delegation led by Chairman Hong Tian Zhu of Texhong Textile Group Limited of Hong Kong at his office on 19 January, and discussed matters on investment. Also present on the occasion together with the Region Chief Minister were Ayeaywady Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock U Tin Soe, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko and Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Hla Khang.

Acting Region Chief Minister inspects Myeik-Dawei Union Highway

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

At the Bailey bridge in Kye Village, Superintending Engineer U Khin Thet of Public Works reported to the Acting Region Chief Minister on damage of the bridge and plan to repair it. After looking into Basic Education Primary School in Magyigon village of Palau Township and Zayatieik-Kyaukmye road, the Acting Region Chief Minister visited Palaw Township People’s Hospital.

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

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

Meiktila Golf Club to hold invitational golf tournament

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

The main sponsors of the tournament are Dagon Brewery Ltd, Kaung Myat Co Ltd and Air Bagam Ltd and co-sponsors are NIVEA and KTM drinking water. Golfers from Myingyan, Pakokku, NyaungU, Popa, Mahlaing, Wundwin, Thazi, Pyaywbye, and Yamein townships are invited to the event. —MNA

Photo shows Ayeaywady Bridge (Pakokku) which was opened on 31-12-2011 is the longest facility of its kind in Myanmar.—MNA
Maubin-Twantay tarred road opens

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Maubin-Twantay tarred road linking Maubin Township, Yangon South District and Maubin, Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region was opened at Mile Post No.301 this morning.

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

The Union Minister explained the purpose of opening the new tarred road and the chief minister spoke words of thanks on behalf of the local people. Then, the Union Minister and Region Chief Minister and party cordially greeted those present. Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and region ministers formally opened the tarred road.

At the same time, the new tarred road opening ceremony was opened at Mile Post No.7/0, attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tin, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun, departmental officials and others.

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

Union A&I Minister inspects model mechanized farming zone

YANGON, 21 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday inspected progress of Waka Dam and Zaunggu canal in Bago Township and Kodukwe Dam Project, Salu Dam Project, Shwelaung Dam Project being built for prevention against floods in Bago Region.

At 10000-acre model mechanized farming zone in Dagon Myothit Township of Yangon Region, the Union Minister viewed thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation on 100 acres of farmland and the nursery for 300-acre Palethwe paddy plantation.

The Union Minister left necessary instructions to officials.

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

Union F&R Minister receives IMF officials

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received the 2011 IMF Article IV Consultation Mission led by Deputy Division Chef Ms Meral Karasulu of Asia and Pacific Department of the International Monetary Fund at the ministry, here, yesterday afternoon.

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

IMF officials

Left: Kino Maung Win
Right: Aung Kyaw Lin Kyi (Kyemon);
Translation: HKA

Marketable cabbages and Shan tomatoes of Thahtaygon Village of Tatkon Township

Thahtaygon village lies in Kyetheing village-tract of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is a major vegetable provider of kitchen crops. By Yangon-Mandalay Highway, the village’s light soils produce high yield of seasonal fruits, driving the small village to engage in agriculture round the year.

They irrigate their vegetable patches from artesian wells. Kyemon news crew visited the village. Bullock carts loading cauliflowers, cabbages and radishes in queue welcomed the news crew at the entrance of the village. Trucks fully loaded with commodity which will go to kitchens far and wide the country were starting engines. Plantations of cauliflower, cabbage, radish, chili, tomato and onion coloured the road to the village green. Especially, cabbage plantations were encouraging. Corn plantations, bending to and fro in favour of wind, stretched away to the distant horizon.

“I mainly grow cauliflower and cabbage as cold season crops in addition to radish and eggplant. The cabbage I have grown was kept in nursery for a month and then moved to the plantation. After 90 days, it is marketable and generates cash. A total of 15000 plants can be cultivated in a single acre with the distance of one and a half feet between each plant,” farmer U Kyaw Thin said on the way to his plantation.

When asked about market he added, “In this time of high demand, brokers even visit farms and buy commodity. An acre generates K 1.8 million. They are transported mainly to Yangon and also to Mawlamyine, Thaton, and a half feet between each plant,” farmer U Kyaw Thin said on the way to his plantation.

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Study reveals mechanism of lung cancer drug resistance

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — New research published this week in *Nature Medicine* indicates that targeted drugs such as gefitinib might more effectively inhibit non-small cell lung cancer if they could be combined with agents that block certain microRNAs. The study, led by investigators with the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Centre, shows that overexpression of two genes called MET and EGFR causes the deregulation of six microRNAs, and that this deregulation leads to gefitinib resistance. The findings support the development of agents that restore the levels of these microRNAs. It offers a new strategy for treating non-small cell lung cancer, which is responsible for about 85 percent of the 221,000 lung cancer cases and 157,000 deaths that occur annually in the United States. It also suggests that measuring the expression levels of certain microRNAs those controlled by the MET gene — might predict which lung cancer cases are likely to be resistant to gefitinib. Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is frequently overexpressed in non-small cell lung cancer, and this leads to uncontrolled cell proliferation. Gefitinib selectively inhibits EGFR activity and triggers cancer cells to self-destruct by apoptosis. However, non-small cell lung cancer cells inevitably develop resistance to the drug. The study reveals how this resistance occurs. Our findings suggest that gefitinib resistance that is caused by MET overexpression is at least partly due to miRNA deregulation, says principal investigator Carlo Croce. Xinhua

Elusive endangered monkeys caught on camera in Borneo

JAKARTA, 21 Jan — Once the world’s most endangered primates has been caught on camera by scientists on the island of Borneo. Using time-lapse recordings to investigate the diversity of the remote Wehea forest, the team were surprised to see an unusual sub-species. Close analysis confirmed that they had photographed a group of Miller’s grizzled langurs. Fears for the monkeys’ future were sparked last year when none were recorded in previously known habitats. The international team of researchers suggest their evidence could indicate a more optimistic future. “Our findings confirm that indeed this monkey still lives in the forests of Borneo and we found that its range extends further inland than scientists had previously thought,” said PhD student Brent Loken from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada. “This gives us hope that we may still be able to find large enough populations of this monkey to ensure its survival.” The team’s findings are published in the American Journal of Primatology. Population of Miller’s grizzled langurs were first described in Kutai National Park and Sangkulirang Peninsula, East Kalimantan, Indonesia, in 1985. However, due to habitat loss and hunting, subsequent studies recorded falling numbers of the monkeys in these areas with no activity recorded last year. Scientists from Indonesia, the Czech Republic, US and Canada worked together to set up hidden cameras so they could learn more about the animals living in the rainforest. Stunned by the results of their initial camera-trap study, scientists returned to the location to photograph the little-known monkeys in greater detail. “It was a challenge to confirm our findings as there are so few pictures of this monkey available for study,” said Mr Loken. “The only description of Miller’s grizzled langur came from museum specimens. Our photographs from Wehea are some of the only pictures that we have of this monkey.” Internet

Body of Iraq kidnap victim Alan McMenemy handed over

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan — The British Embassy in Baghdad has confirmed that a body handed over to them is that of Alan McMenemy, who was kidnapped in Iraq in 2007. Mr McMenemy, a security guard from Glasgow, was snatched along with three other guards and an IT expert. The bodies of Jason Swindlehurst, Jason Creswell and Alec MacLachlan were also handed over to them last week. Mr McMenemy’s widowed said his family would be comforted by having him home. Roseleen McMenemy said: “Our families have suffered terrible uncertainty and distress over the past four years and eight months. ‘We have worried about Alan every single minute of each waking day. “We now know that we will shortly have Alan home again, this will allow us to properly grieve for him and we will draw some comfort from the fact that we have him home at last.” The men were snatched by militants posing as police at the Iraqi finance ministry in May 2007. The four dead men were acting as bodyguards for Mr Moore. He was freed on 30 December 2009, 946 days after he was kidnapped. — Internet

NEOShield to assess Earth defence

LONDON, 21 Jan — NEOshield is a new international project that will assess the threat posed by Near-Earth Objects (NEO) and look at the best possible solutions for dealing with a big asteroid threatening a collision path with our planet. The effort is being led from the European Space Agency’s (DLR) Institute of Planetary Research in Berlin, and will kick-off meeting this week. It will draw on expertise from across Europe, Russia and the US, a major EU-funded initiative that will pull together all the latest science. The project will also initiate a fair few laboratory experiments and new modelling work, and then try to come to some definitive positions. Industrial partners, which include the German, British and French divisions of the big Astrium space company, will consider the engineering architecture required to deflect one of these bodies out of our path. Should we kick it, try to tug it, or even blast it off its trajectory? “We’re going to collate all the scientific information with a view to mitigation,” explains project leader Prof Alan Harris at DLR. “What do you need to know about an asteroid in order to be able to change its course—to deflect it from a catastrophic course with the Earth?” It’s likely that NEOshield will, at the end of its three- and-a-half-year study period, propose to the politicians that they launch a mission to demonstrate the necessary technology. The NEO threat may seem rather distant, but the geological and observational records tell us it is real. Internet

Novartis drug investigated after 11 deaths

LONDON, 21 Jan — A European agency is investigating a multiple sclerosis drug made by industry giant Novartis to determine whether the medicine played any role in the deaths of at least 11 patients. The drug, Gilenya, was licensed last year in the European Union to treat a severe type of multiple sclerosis. It can cause a slow heart rate when first taken and doctors closely monitor patients after the first dose. The European Medicines Agency, which is now investigating the drug, said it isn’t clear if it caused the deaths. One of the fatalities occurred in the United States, where a patient died within 24 hours of taking the first dose. The European agency said it didn’t know where the other 10 deaths occurred, but that they were reported to its drug database, which monitors side effects from medicines in the European Union. Novartis has said all the deaths were heart-related. A spokeswoman at the US Food and Drug Administration said it also is conducting a data analysis but has not made any definitive conclusions and does not when its review will be complete. More than 30,000 patients have taken Gilenya worldwide. The European Medicines Agency advised doctors to increase their monitoring of patients after the first dose of the medicine. The agency said the risk of a slow heart rate after the first dose of Gilenya was known when it was approved. — Internet

US scientists convert seaweed to renewable fuels, chemicals

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — A team of scientists from California-based Bio Architecture Lab (BAL) has developed breakthrough technology that expands the feedstocks for advanced biofuels and renewable chemicals production to include seaweed (macroalgae). The team engineered a microbe to extract all the major sugars in seaweed and convert them into renewable fuels and chemicals, thus making seaweed a cost-effective, renewable source of biomass. The research will be detailed Friday in an article on journal *Science*. "About 60 percent of the dry biomass of seaweed are fermentable carbohydrates, and approximately half of those are locked in a single carbohydrate—alginate," said Daniel Tranfoil, chief executive officer at Bio Architecture Lab. "Our scientists have engineered an enzyme to degrade and a pathway to metabolize the alginate, allowing us to utilize all the major sugars in seaweed, which therefore makes the biomass an economical feedstock for the production of renewable fuels and chemicals." — Xinhua
**THE GREEN LIGHT OF MYANMAR**
**Sunday, 22 January, 2012**

**Costa Concordia operation halted amid weather fears**  
**Reno, 21 Jan** — The rescue operation aboard the Costa Concordia has been suspended once again after a shift of the ship to deeper water. The coast guard was surveying the ship from the air to check the weather conditions expected to worsen. Earlier, a video emerged showing the crew of the stricken vessel assuring passengers nothing was wrong. The video, however, was recorded with far less clarity, and it was not immediately clear whether the crew members were providing accurate information to the passengers. The ship was scheduled to be idle until at least 11 a.m. the following day, but the weather conditions were expected to worsen, with strong winds and heavy seas forecast. The search for survivors continued, with at least 29 people still unaccounted for.

**London skyscraper stalls as builders down tools**  
**London, 21 Jan** — Construction of what will become the tallest skyscraper in London’s financial district has stalled after builders downed tools over funding concerns. A source close to the matter told Reuters. Canadian firm Brookfield, which owns the building under construction on the Pinacle tower, late last year after it slowed to a virtual standstill as developer Arab Investments tried to secure the next stage of funding for the 945-ft tower.

A deal was struck that included a record 500 million pounds debt facility from a group of lenders including HSBC and HSH Nordbank, plus the injection of new equity from Saudi Arabian-based investor consortium Sitedo. It was reliant on the developer pre-letting a chunk of the tower to lower the risk.
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A majority of H5N1 human cases have been contracted from livestock. — INTERNET

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A majority of H5N1 human cases have been contracted from livestock. — INTERNET

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

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

Last October, the department allocated $300 for Jim Beams whiskey, Doritos and drink mixers. The Herald Tribune reports that it was part of an effort to preserve the embattled “Intoxilyzer 8000” from being phased out.

15 law enforcement employees were then invited to department headquarters in Tallahassee to drink and eat on the job.

The department set up a video camera to record the events, while FDLE crime analysts, staff assistants and Capitol Police officers drank. Blood tests were then taken and sent to a local lab for test purposes.

**Kenny G and wife separate**

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

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

**Hemsworth and Pataky expecting first child**

**Los Angeles, 21 Jan**—Chris Hemsworth’s publicist told People.com the Australian actress’ husband, Spanish actress Elsa Pataky, is pregnant with their first child. The baby is due to be born this spring, the celebrity news Web site said.

“Chris and I are ecstatic, very happy and excited,” Pataky, 35, told People.com the celebrity news Web site said. —Internet

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

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

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

The mystery began in early 2009, when locals began snapping pictures of the strangely coloured hawks and sending them to the local newspaper. It was only after the death of one of the hawks was accidentally hit by a car that the spray-painting ruse was discovered.

An investigation by the Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty (SPCA) failed to turn up a culprit until Teahan asked his nephew to send a video clip to the media of him catching a magpie in a trap covered in spray paint.

When police seized computers from Teahan, property, they found deleted pictures and video relating to “red hawks.”

**Pet dog saves two children from deadly snake**

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

18-month-old River spotted a two-foot-long brown snake hiding under a children’s swing just as 7-year-old Michelle Lynch and 2-year-old Kaylee were headed its way.

The brown snake is considered the second-most deadly snake hiding under a children’s swing just as 7-year-old Michelle Lynch and 2-year-old Kaylee were headed its way.

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The brown snake is considered the second-most deadly
Djokovic overpowers Mahut to reach pre-quarters

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

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

Sharapova ended-up as an easy match for Sharapova, who made a convincing start to the match, struggled a bit in the second-set, but then sailed home with straight sets victory. Sharapova took 1 hour and 27 minutes to finish this match, as she earned 73% points on her first-serve and also hammered 32 massive winners. That action also got benefitted from Kerber’s v3 unfounded errors and converted 5 out of 8 break-points. Kerber could only convert 1 out of 6 break-points.—Internet

Wilson shoots 62 to join leading duo at PGA Humana

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

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

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

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

English also posted a 62, with his round coming on the Nicklaus layout. Villegas carded a 68 while Kirk and Gates both shot 63. Wilson admitted that when he eagled the par-5 second shot next to a herd of cows, he thought about it, “said Wilson, who made two more birdies on the way home, the last of which came when he sank an eight-foot putt at the last for his share of the lead.

Low scores are nothing new for this tournament, formerly known as the Bob Hope Classic. The Nicklaus and Palmer courses at the PGA West resort ranked as two of the three least difficult layouts on the US tour last season. David Duval fired a 69 on the Palmer course 13 years ago with four 61’s being recorded in 2009 and there have been 14 rounds of 62 in the past four years.—Internet

Crane soars into a tie for the lead at La Quinta

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

The 35-year-old American birdied two of his last four holes on the Palmer Private course at PGA West, one of three venues hosting the pro-am celebrity event, to post a 1-under total of 128. That put him level with compatriots David Toms (63) and Mark Wilson (62), who also took advantage of near-perfect scoring conditions on another sun-splashed day in the California desert. PGA Tour Rookie Harris English was further three strokes behind after matching Wilson with a best-of-the-week 62 to finish alongside fellow Americans Chris Kirk (63) and Bobby Gates (63), plus Colombian Camilo Villegas (68). Crane, who won his fourth PGA Tour title at last year’s McGladrey Classic, was delighted with his score after making a few tweaks to his game since the end of last season. “We made a couple of little adjustments with my swing, a couple of shoulder alignment things, and it’s felt a lot easier with the full swing,” Crane told reporters after totaling just 22 putts. “And then my putting coach was in last week and we worked on seeing the line and hitting my line with the putting and I was able to do that. “I made a lot of 10 and 15-footers, and all my kind-of-close pars for birdie. I putted extremely well and every part of my game felt great. I guess that’s how you do it.”—Reuters

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

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

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic secured her berth in the last sixteen of the 2012 Australian Open on Saturday after her opponent Maria Kirilenko of Russia retired from their third-round match, when Kvitova was leading with 6-1-0.

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

The Russian availed a medical-time-out break, while she was trailing with 1-5 in the first set, but that did not help and after losing the first set and then the first game of the second-set, the Russian decided to quit.—Internet

Bayern beaten 3-1 by “Gladbach in Bundesliga

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

Reus capitalized on a blunder from Manuel Neuer to score in the 11th minute, when he renounced the German goalkeeper’s attempted clearance from 30 meters (yards). “I’m sorry. My loose pass led to the defeat,” Neuer said.

"Of course that’s bitter."

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

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

Bastian Schweinsteiger, back after recovering from a broken collarbone, scored Bayern’s 76th-minute consolation. Moenchengladbach moves within one point of Bayern with the victory, while Schalke and defending champion Dortmund can both move level with Bayern on 37 points later this weekend.

“We played into ‘Gladbach’s hands with the early goal,” said Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes, a former Moenchengladbach striker and coach. Reus rejected Bayern’s overtakes this past offseason, instead opting for a $17 million ($21.8 million) move to Dortmund at the end of this season, and the 22-year-old winger gratefully accepted Neuer’s wayward clearance before dispatching it into the unguarded net for his 11th goal of the season.—Internet

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

China’s Li Na advanced to the pre-quarter-finals of the Australian Open when her opponent Annabel Medina Garrigues was forced to retire with an ankle injury.

Li Na had a smooth passage into the second week of the Australian Open when her Spanish opponent Annabel Medina Garrigues retired from their match due to an ankle injury. Na led 3-0 when her opponent left the court crying in excruciating pain after she twisted her ankle when she tried reaching for a ball.

Li started the match on a strong note by holding her serve and breaking Medina Garrigues’ serve. She later consolidated the break and led 4-1, when her opponent tried to reach for a backhand by Li, Medina Garrigues’ ankle was left stranded on court.—Internet
Norwich City 0-0 Chelsea

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

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

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

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

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

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

But Chelsea lacked urgency before the break, and when they did step up the pace, Ruddy twice saved brilliantly from Torres has not scored in 17 games for club and country.

Raul Meireles also shot over while Torres squandered an opportunity.

The lively Anthony Pilkington also twice nearly set up John Terry and into the arms of Petr Cech.—

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**Sleep solidifies bad feelings**

Night of slumber keeps negative emotions fresh

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

Sleep is known to lock in memories, particularly emotional ones, but scientists didn’t know whether accompanying feelings are locked in, too — a question that’s particularly relevant to people who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. “If we really want to know if this is relevant to trauma survivors, then we need to know if sleep not just changes the memory, but if it changes how you feel about it if you experience it again,” says study coauthor Rebecca Spencer of the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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

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

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

Payne points out that sleep deprivation leads to increased stress, which can profoundly influence emotions. “In most cases, it’s better to sleep than to not sleep,” she says. These new results contrast with a study published in December that found that a night of sleep takes the emotional edge off unpleasant experiences — what some scientists call overnight therapy. That study, led by Matthew Walker of the University of California, Berkeley, used different methods and measurements, which may be responsible for the seemingly opposite findings, says neuroscientist Penny Lewis of the University of Manchester in England. “It seems like the system is more complicated than we had thought,” she says, “and we need to run more experiments to figure out what is going on.”