NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo left here for Dawei yesterday to inspect progress of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project and regional development of Taninthayi Region.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of Commander-in-Chief’s Office (Army), Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myint Zaw, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative from Dawei Constituency U Kyi Min, Advisor to the President U Htet Aung, departmental heads and personnel accompanied the Vice-President on his tour.

On arrival at Dawei Airport, the Vice-President and his entourage were welcomed by Acting Region Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, personnel and locals.

Deputy Transport Minister U Win Shein, at the airport lounge, briefed the Vice-President on current condition of Dawei Airport, annual flow of visitors, plans for extension of runway, apron and buildings and availability of land plot so as to upgrade Dawei Airport as international one and the acting region chief minister made supplementary report.

Deputy Transport Minister U Win Shein, at the airport lounge, briefed the Vice-President on current condition of Dawei Airport, annual flow of visitors, plans for extension of runway, apron and buildings and availability of land plot so as to upgrade Dawei Airport as international one and the acting region chief minister made supplementary report.

The Vice-President coordinated essentials, noting that Dawei region is bound to see increased contacts with the international community. He added that the airport had to deal with the doubled passengers in 2011 in comparison with 2010. He stressed the need for implementation of airport extension works to be in harmony with Dawei Special Economic Zone Project, pointing that not only domestic but also foreign visitors will be increasing upon completion of the special economic zone project. He then called personnel concerned for systematic measures for comprehensive ness of the airport in its extension by estimating the potential development of the region.

The Vice-President and party proceeded to Dawei Special Economic Zone where they were welcomed by Chairman of Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee Deputy Rail Transportation Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin and officials.

The Vice-President and party viewed prototypical miniatures of small, medium and large industries, administrative buildings, and housings of the project at the briefing hall.

The Vice-President then inspected samples of middle-class housing, one of the three kinds of housings to be built for the relocated villages and gave necessary instructions.

(See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 24 January, 2012

When breeze comes...

Winter is coming to an end at last. Here and there are songs of summer’s koels. Leaf buds appear to replace old and withered leaves. There comes the summer soon.

Fragrance of winter is still fresh. Old leaves are falling in each breath of wind. Green mountains at a distance away have turned blue and then brown, drier and drier. Some forest fires can be seen at night. Fire warnings come each night as summer approaches. Fire is a good servant but a bad master. “Thief hardly takes all but fire does,” a Myanmar saying goes. Fire could break out at any time, but it is most common in summer.

I recall hearing fire alert of U Ba Kyaw, the crier of our village at my tender age.

“Esteemed villagers! Esteemed villagers! Now, Breeze comes as winter ends and summer comes. It is warned in advance to prepare water, sand, fire fighting tools, not to smoke and throw lit cigars on road and to carefully extinguish cooking fire.”

Dry season raises the possibility of fire outbreak. The fire outbreaks started from tossed-out cigars and dying fire are very common in villages. Candles, lamps and oil on pans cause fire outbreaks. Electric shocks, candles and mosquito coils are sources of fire hazard in urban areas as dwellers use them while sleeping. Urbanites should prevent against fire by caring electric wires, restraining themselves from sleeping while lighting up candles and mosquito coils, using gas containers systematically, and keeping fire extinguishers in every house.

Each and every individual should take fire preventive measures as summer breeze has come.

FOREVER STARTS TASTE OF TV COURSE

YANGON, 23 Jan—Myanmar Media Development Center (MMDC) of Forever Group Co Ltd opened Taste of TV course at Myanmar Radio and Television today, with addresses by Director-General U Ye Hutt of Information and Public Relations Department, Head of Culture and Education Affairs of German Embassy Ms Katrin Fruhin Sfeld.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Director U Myint Aung of MRTV-4, Forever Group Co Ltd CEO U Win Myo, Executive Director Daw Khin Khin Lay, Director U Khin Maung Hay, Project Manager Patrick Benning of DW-AKADEMIE, course instructors Ulrich Koelehr and Ellen Roethinger and officials.

The course covers journalism, script writing, making presentation, communication skills, camera shooting and video editing subjects.

Taste of TV course No. 1 jointly contributed by Deutsche Welle-Akademie of Germany and Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development based in Malaysia has admitted 50 trainees to the course.

Similarly, course No. 2 will be opened in February with the assistance of local experts.

LASHIO UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES TRACK AND FIELD COMPETITIONS

LASHIO, 21 Jan—The prize presentation for the Track and Field Competition of Lashio University for 2011-2012 academic year was held at the university’s football ground on 29 December.

Rector in-charge Dr Maung Maung, Pro-Rector Dr Tun Khin and officials awarded the winners.

The 100-m and 800-m race began on 27 December, and shot put event on 28 December. Students participated in the 1500-m javelin and discus event.—Kyemon

LOCAL SPORTS

Traditional cane-ball contest concludes

TAUKON, 23 Jan—Taekon Township Cane-ball Enthusiasts Group and Township Cane-ball Sub-committee organized the traditional cane-ball contest in Bayinnaung Ward on 8 January.

Four teams participated in the contest. Ward administrator U Win Lwin and officials awarded the winning team. Township Cane-ball Sub-committee Dr Win Latt presented best player award to U Thein Win of Shweyay-aye team.

Myanma Alin

Application for registration as political party granted

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Union Election Commission issued Announcement No. 7/2012 today.

The translation of the announcement is as follows:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 7/2012

15th Waning of Pyatho, 1373 ME
(23rd January, 2012)

Myanmar National Congress Party granted to register as political party

It is hereby announced that Myanmar National Congress Party, headquartered at No. 84/A, Daw Thein Tin Street, North Kandawlay Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, is granted to register in accord with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, as of 23rd January, 2012. Its registration number is 50.

Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Union A & I Minister inspects flood preventive measures in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi received a delegation led by Executive Director Mr Guy Ryder of the ILO at his office here this morning.

They discussed measures for soonest enactment of Labour Union Law passed by Pyithu Hluttaw and Myanmar’s implementation of suggestions of ILO Conventions and meetings of ILO executive bodies.

They exchanged views on Myanmar’s democratization process, efforts for making peace with ethnic armed groups, effectiveness of poverty alleviation scheme, gradually relaxing of grip over media, amnesty to prisoners and eradication of forced labour nationwide.

Deputy Labour Minister U Myint Thein and the ILO executive director signed the agreement to extend supplementary understanding on eradication of forced labour for further one year.—MNA

Labour Ministry closely cooperating with ILO on forced labour issues

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Myanma Alin

Invitational football tourney winds up

PIYNAUL, 23 Jan—The final of 25th inter-village invitational football tournament of Kongyi Village in Piyuakal Sub-Township, Labutta District, was held at the village football ground on 25 December morning.

The second prize went to Nathyang Village-B and the first prize, to Thabyechang Village. The football tournament organizing committee awarded the winners. Altogether 16 village teams participated in the tournament.—Township IPRD
Taleban releases horrific video of executions of 15 Pakistani soldiers

ISLAMABAD, 23 Jan — Blindfolded and handcuffed to each other on a barren hilltop, Pakistani soldiers wait for death at the hands of a merciless Taleban fighter. Fifteen men were lined up for execution, the chilling scene captured on film by the Taleban for a video released on Sunday. The video shows one of the killers from the Pakistan Taleban, or TTP, holding an AK-47 rifle and speaking with fury about revenge. Twelve of our comrades were beheaded and mercilessly martyred in the Khyber Agency [area]," said the militant. "Our pious and merciless martyrs in Khyber Agency [area] are not halted, this will be the fate of you all."

One of the abducted soldiers, sitting alongside his colleagues with their arms folded and legs crossed in front of Taleban banners, describes on the video how dozens of militants stormed their fort in the north-western Tank District of Pakistan. "They attacked without previous notice, and we took us away." He warned the government of Pakistan that if the killing of our friends is not halted, this will be the fate of you all."

The video shows one of the killers from the Pakistan Taleban, or TTP, holding an AK-47 rifle and speaking with fury about revenge. Twelve of our comrades were beheaded and mercilessly martyred in the Khyber Agency [area]," said the militant. "Our pious and merciless martyrs in Khyber Agency [area] are not halted, this will be the fate of you all."

Afghan government hints at Taleban talks

KABUL, 23 Jan — The Afghan government of Hamid Karzai signaled willingness to join in with an American-led drive towards peace talks, according to a top official on Sunday, removing a potential hurdle blocking US efforts to push a peace process forward in the unstable country. "Peace is our highest top priority and we support every effort that would lead to peace," Deputy Foreign Minister Jawed Ludin said, indicating that Kabul backs a plan for the Taleban to open an office in Qatar to facilitate talks.

His public statement, alongside the American architect of the peace initiative, the US special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman, also removed most doubts that the Afghan government might not fully support the peace US initiative as it had not been involved in it from the very beginning. Karzai’s government also signaled it would not stand in the way of the release of prisoners from the American detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the Taleban are demanding.

After Iran threat, US aircraft carrier goes through Strait of Hormuz without incident

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — Flanked by British and French ships, the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier moved through the Strait of Hormuz without incident on Sunday after a recent threat from Iran. The US Naval Forces Central Command said in a statement that the Lincoln “completed a regular and routine transit of the Strait of Hormuz to conduct maritime security operations.”

The Lincoln is in the region with the USS Harry S. Truman, giving the US Navy its standard two-carrier presence there. A British defence ministry spokesman, who was not named per policy, said on Sunday that the “IMO Argus” joined a French vessel going through the strait “to underline the unwavering international commitment to maintaining rights of passage under international law.”

British armed as Nigeria death toll hits 165

LONDON, 23 Jan — Britons are being warned against travelling to parts of Nigeria due to a series of terror attacks reached 165. The warning came after another wave of attacks swept Nigeria today, killing at least eleven people. Radical group Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for bombings in the northern city of Kano that killed at least 165 people on Friday. At least 114 people died in an attack in Nigeria’s northern Bauchi State yesterday less than 48 hours after Friday’s attacks in Kano, while several other attacks throughout the country claimed no casualties. This afternoon President Goodluck Jonathan visited Kano to see the destruction wreaked by Boko Haram. Witnesses have described seeing dozens of bodies piled up side by side in the main mosque after attacks on police stations, state buildings and on streets, beginning on Friday afternoon.

Authorities enforced a 24-hour curfew in the city with many people remaining home as soldiers and police patrolled the streets and set up roadblocks. The Foreign Office updated its travel advice for the African country, advising against travel to Kano. The FCO said: “We advise against all travel to Kano whilst the curfew remains in force and for those in Kano to remain vigilant and to exercise caution.”

“DFID (Department for International Development) and British Council have limited their operations in Kano whilst the curfew is in place.” An official at the city’s main mosque said dead bodies had been arriving since Friday night. Soldiers and police officers swarmed throughout the city as the death toll rose. Boko Haram is campaigning to implement strict Sharia law across Nigeria, a multi-ethnic nation of more than 160 million people.

London police arrest man after dog reportedly attacks 6-year-old girl

LONDON, 23 Jan — A man was arrested Sunday after a dog mauled a 6-year-old girl in front of her parents, biting off part of one ear during the attack in northeast London. The seriously-injured girl also suffered wounds to her neck and shoulder, and police officers said she probably would be scarred for life. She was taken to the hospital for surgery after the incident, which happened at about midday local time on Saturday.

Police arrived at the scene in Waltham Forest shortly afterward, but the dog—described as a black and white Bull Terrier—had escaped. The dog’s owner had gone. A 56-year-old man has since handed himself in and is being questioned by police. Scotland Yard said he walked into a police station and was arrested on suspicion of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place.

Detective Superintendent of London’s Metropolitan Police said, “This was an appalling incident that left a young child with serious injuries, which are likely to scar her for life.”
AIDS killed 28,000 in China in 2011, study says

BEIJING, 23 Jan—AIDS killed 28,000 people in China last year, and another 48,000 new infections from the HIV virus were discovered in the country, according to an official report on Saturday.

In China 780,000 people live with the HIV virus, of which 154,000 developed AIDS, a report jointly produced by China’s Ministry of Health, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization said.

In September 2011 there were 136,000 people receiving anti-viral treatment for the disease, it said, making the treatment coverage rate 73.5 percent, an increase of 11.5 percentage points compared to 2009.

The report, quoted by China’s official state media Xinhua, said some new trends had appeared, notably “a rise in the number of imported cases and those transmitted sexually”.

Sexual relations are the first source of contamination of the HIV virus in mainland China, where a huge blood contamination scandal erupted in the central Henan Province in the 1990s.

HIV/AIDS sufferers have long been stigmatised in the country, and rights groups estimate the number of sufferers to be higher, but increased government education has helped raise awareness.

Chinese citizens take part in an AIDS awareness programme to mark World AIDS Day in Chongqing November last year, and another 48,000 new infections from the HIV virus were discovered in the country, according to an official report.

Euro zone finance ministers to rule on glacial Greek debt talks

BRUSSELS/ATHENS, 23 Jan—Euro zone finance ministers will decide on Monday what terms of a Greek debt restructuring they are ready to accept as part of a second bailout package for Athens after negotiators for private creditors said they could not improve their offer.

Resolving the issue of a Greek debt swap is key to putting Athens’ debt on a sustainable path and avoiding a chaotic default that could threaten the whole currency bloc.

After several rounds of talks, Greece and its private creditors are convergeing on a deal in which private bondholders would take a real loss of 65 to 70 percent on their Greek bonds, officials close to the negotiations said.

But some details of the debt restructuring, which will involve swapping existing Greek bonds for new, longer-term bonds to bring Greek debt down to a more sustainable 120 percent of GDP in 2020 from 160 percent now, are unresolved.

“What I am confident of is that our offer, that was delivered to the prime minister, is the maximum offer consistent with a voluntary PSI deal,” Institute of International Finance chief Charles Dallara, who is negotiating on behalf of banks and insurers holding Greek debt, told Antenna TV on Sunday.

“We are at a crossroads and I remain quite hopeful,” said Dallara, who left Athens on Saturday without a deal in place. “We will listen to the report on the negotiations, see how far they have gotten and have the ministers say what is acceptable and what is not in terms of outcome of the negotiations,” one Eurogroup official said.

WASHINGON, 23 Jan—AIDS scientists claim to have found a new way to beat severe blood cancer by removing a pro-survival protein from acute myeloid leukemia cells.

A team at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research says it has discovered that acute myeloid leukemia (AML), an aggressive form of blood cancer of the marrow, is susceptible to medications that target McI-1 protein, the ‘Genes & Development’ journal reported.

AML is the most common type of acute leukemia. Some forms of AML occur in children, while other forms are more prevalent in adults over the age of 60. Of patients with the most severe forms of AML, fewer than one in six survives for five years after diagnosis.

In a new research, the scientists found that treatments that remove the protein McI-1 — also called ‘pro-survival’ protein because it can make cells long-lived — from AML cells can rapidly kill these aggressive cancer cells.

“The gene for McI-1 was first found in AML patients, but until now it had not been realised that the McI-1 protein was critical for AML cells to live. What we have shown is that without McI-1, AML cells rapidly die,” Dr Stefan Glaser, who led the team, said. The scientists say that in the future, new treatments for AML will be developed that work by specifically blocking McI-1. Glaser said: “We found that many types of AML cells were very dependent on McI-1 to survive.”

When McI-1 was depleted from the AML cells, they rapidly died.

“Importantly, non-cancerous blood cells were much less susceptible to dying when McI-1 was depleted.”

Internet

Apple 2012: Smooth sailing, for the most part

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Jan—Apple Inc coasts into 2012 with a strong wind in its sails, a clutch of envelope-pushing products in its hold, a record share price, and a steady hand at the tiller.

But its very success — with the market-leading iPad and the voice-enabled iPhone 4S — is luring cheaper rivals to sail, a clutch of envelope-pushed products in its hold, a record share price, and a steady hand at the tiller.

Finally, though many on Wall Street, betting that an iPad and the voice-enabled iPhone 4S is luring cheaper rivals to its market, it continues to attract envelope-pushing phone makers, Amazon.com Inc’s Kindle Fire, half the cost of the iPad, is expected to have shipped 3.2 million units by the end of December.

Apple tacked on $43 billion in free cash in 2011, lifting it to $108.25 billion—a 65 percent increase from the previous year.

Barry Jaruzelski, a consumer hardware business expert and partner at consulting firm Illoor & Co, said that sustain its effectiveness to compete with a Fortune 500 company, not to mention a $700,000 annual salary and an MBA degree.

Asian stocks muted as Greece debt talks drag on

BANGKOK, 23 Jan—Asian stocks hovered between gains and losses Monday as trade thinned by Chinese New Year holidays as talk on a debt agreement for Greece dragged on.

Only a handful of markets were open for business. Trading is closed in mainland China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taipei, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Japan’s Nikkei 225 stock average was down less than 0.1 percent at 8,763.22 and Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.3 percent to 4,225.10. New Zealand’s benchmark added 0.6 percent to 3,295.02 and India’s Sensex inched up 0.1 percent to 16,763.22. Thailand’s SET index rose 0.6 percent to 1,065.07.

On Friday, stocks in Europe mostly held their gains for the week, waiting for the outcome of Greece’s negotiations with its creditors on a deal to cut the face value of up to euro200 billion ($258 billion) in debt by 50 percent.

Over the weekend, the representative of Greece’s private creditors said the talks are continuing even after his unexpected departure from the country.
Global warming could be

**LONDON, 23 Jan**—The impact of global warming could be similar across ecosystems, regardless of local environmental conditions and species.

A team from Queen Mary’s School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, which went to Iceland to study a set of geothermally-heated streams, came up with these findings.

The streams provided them with a similar across ecosystems unique environment to isolate the effects of temperature from other confounding variables found in nature, the journal Global Change Biology reports.

Explained Queen Mary’s Daniel Perkins who led the study: “The streams in Iceland are all very similar, in terms of their physical and chemical environment, but maintain very different temperatures to each other all year round.

“Ths enabled us to explore how temperature, both past and present, affects the rate at which respiration responds to temperature in ecosystems,” he said in a statement.

Perkins said when the team exposed the organisms found in streams to a range of temperatures, “the rate at which carbon was respired increased with temperature as expected, but surprisingly the rate of increase was consistent across streams.”—Internet

Tulip-shaped creature

**WASHINGTON, 23 Jan**—Scientists have discovered in the Canadian Rockies a bizarre tulip-shaped creature—a length of a dinner knife—that lived in the ocean 500 million years ago.

A team from the University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum in Canada says that fossils, which emerged in Middle Cambrian Burgess Shale, reveal that the creature, Siphusauctum gregarium, has a unique filter feeding system, the journal reported. Siphusauctum has a long stem, with a calyx—a bulbous cup-like structure—near the top that encloses an unusual filter feeding system and a gut.

The animal is thought to have fed by filtering particles from water actively pumped into its calyx through small holes.

The stem ends with a small disc which anchored the animal to seafloor. It lived in large clusters, as indicated by slabs containing over 65 individual specimens, say the scientists.—Internet

Humans still threaten California condors

**SAN DIEGO, 23 Jan**—Deaths of endangered California condors in the wild are still largely caused by human activity, with lead poisoning being the primary factor, a report says.

The San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research study of the deaths of wild California condors at all release sites in California, Arizona and Baja, California, Mexico, found 70 percent (53 out of 76) of condor mortalities could be attributed to human influences.

Lead toxicosis from the ingestion of spent ammunition was the most important factor in mortality in juvenile condors, birds between the age of 6 months and 5 years, and was the only significant cause of death in adults, a release from the Zoological Society of San Diego said on Friday.

The exposures to lead coincide with deer hunting season and the condor’s foraging activity in popular hunting areas, the report said.

Although lead toxicosis from spent ammunition still threatens the survival of the California condor, one of our most iconic species, the good news is that solutions are available in the form of non-toxic ammunition,” said Bruce Rideout, the director of wildlife disease laboratories.”We can make this a win-win situation if we choose to.”—Internet

New gesture and voice-controlled TVs may outdo remote controls

**LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan**—Remote controls could soon become outdated with the advent of new generation gesture and voice-controlled televisions, tech observers say.

The new technology allows users to control new line of TV sets simply by speaking or gesturing at them, eliminating the need for clunky pointing devices and opening up a range of new ways people can use and interact with their televisions, the Los Angeles Times reported.

At a giant booth constructed by Samsung Electronics for the Consumer Electronics Show last week in Las Vegas, a young lady gave a demonstration of the company’s new line of Smart TV sets, which come with a built-in Web browser as well as online applications such as Netflix, Skype and Facebook.

“Hi TV,” she said, issuing the verbal command for the TV to turn on.

“Channel 1034,” she continued, and the Yahoo home page popped up.

Tech observers have asserted that gesture and voice recognition systems will grow more refined as the computers embedded in smartphones, TV’s, tablets and home appliances become more powerful.

That will bring to end an era of mice and remote controls, which started in 1950 with Zenith’s “Lazy Bones,” a remote connected to the TV through a long wire.

According to Charles Golvin, an analyst at Forrester Research, with the newer controls, “you can simply use what God or nature gave you: your hands or your body or your voice — and that’s all you need.”—Internet

China rolls out low-cost maglev trains

**BEIJING, 23 Jan**—A locomotive producer in central China’s Hunan Province, 4moms has just released the Origami, a baby stroller studded with features like power folding with a push of a button, daytime running lights and special pathway lights to help parents see at night.

It is also equipped with a digital dashboard that displays temperature, speed, miles covered during the current trip, total miles covered, and whether or not a baby is actually in the stroller.

The stroller is priced at $499, which may sound costly to normal parents, but is in fact comfortably within the range of higher-end strollers.

The power for the power-folding feature, the lights and even the cellphone charging is produced by an onboard generator that charges the stroller as you push it, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Now, hi-tech baby stroller that charges iPhone

**LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan**—A US firm has come up with a hi-tech baby stroller with a built-in generator that allows parents to charge their cellphones while strolling with their baby.

A company called 4moms has just released the Origami, a baby stroller

NASA captures comet’s crash into Sun

**HOUSTON, 23 Jan**—For the first time, technology has allowed NASA to observe a comet being vaporized as it approached the sun, the space agency reported.

In an article published in this month’s Science, the agency said its Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded Comet C/2011 J3 nearing the sun and burning to nothing over a 20-minute span in July.

On its Web site, NASA describes the event as “Comet corpes in the solar wind.” Almost daily, comets are vaporized by the sun, but this was the first time technology allowed for it to be recorded, Space.com reported.—Internet

China’s high-speed trains: A ‘sun grazing’ comet as caught by SOHO’s LASCO C2 camera as it dived toward the sun on 5 and 6 July, 2011.——INTERNET

Photo shows a bizarre tulip-shaped creature — about the length of a dinner knife — that lived in the ocean 500 million years ago..—INTERNET

**The San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park celebrates the hatching of the first California condor of the season.**
**LAPD tries new policies to cut costly, dangerous traffic crashes**

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan — At any given moment in Los Angeles, scores of police cars are out on the streets — either rushing to calls for help or prowling around in search of trouble.

Despite the training cops receive in how to speed safely through traffic, they are an accident-prone bunch. Police were involved in traffic accidents more than 1,200 times in the last three years — an average of about one a day. Most of the crashes were minor, but some resulted in life-threatening injuries or death, according to LAPD records.

“An LAPD cruiser was one of hundreds of police cars out on the streets — and in a few cases have cost innocent people their lives,” said an unidentified 39-year-old, a bank employee who became part of a committed terrorist cell based in Britain and member of the 800-member Al Qaeda in Pakistan’s inaccessible border area of Afghanistan. His death was announced as it was claimed that an Al-Qaeda commander killed in a drone attack in Somalia was a British citizen. Militant group Al-Shahab said Bilal Al-Berjawi grew up in London but before he too went to fight in Afghanistan, he told the British Foreign Office that he had held an American passport.

Awan, who is thought to have been 29, came to Britain on a student visa in 2002 but disappeared without a trace. He was last heard from in 2007 at his hometown of Abbottabad, Pakistan — ironically, later revealed as the hiding place of Osama bin Laden. Awan’s case is one of hundreds of police involving crashes last year. In fact, the LAPD’s numbers average out to about one crash a day. They’re costly for city — and in a few cases have cost innocent people their lives.

**Gunmen abduct ‘American’ in central Somalia**

Mogadishu, 23 Jan — An American has been abducted by armed men in central Somalia, according to local officials. The man’s car was surrounded shortly after he left the airport in the town of Galgalyo and he was forced into another vehicle, police officer Abdi Hassan Nur, who witnessed the incident, told AFP.

Another witness, Ali Abdul Kadir, told Reuters: “He was a car in which two pick-up trucks full of gunmen stopped the vehicle and took him away. He was a white man.”

**China reports a second bird flu death in less than a month**

**British links of Al Qaeda chiefs killed by drones on Pakistan border**

Beijing, 23 Jan — A man died in southern China Sunday the 5th from bird flu, the Health Ministry reported. It was China’s second such death in less than a month. The latest victim, an unidentified 39-year-old, fell ill on 6 January and was admitted to a hospital in Guangzhou Province the same day, the Health Ministry said in a statement reported by Xinhua, the official news agency.

A 39-year-old bus driver in Shenzhen, a city in Guangdong Province near Hong Kong, died of the disease 13 December. Both deaths were notable because neither victim reported any contact with birds in the month preceding his illness. The virus is known to spread through contact with infected birds, eggs or bird feces, but experts said an epidemic could occur were it to mutate into a form that was more easily spread.

In the latest case, the victim “did not report extensive exposure history to poultry before the onset of symptoms,” according to the Hong Kong bulletin. But Chinese authorities, who are monitoring 71 people known to have been in contact with the victim, have found no other evidence of flu, the ministry reported.

**Gunmen abduct ‘American’ in central Somalia**

Mogadishu, 23 Jan — An American has been abducted by armed men in central Somalia, according to local officials.

A minister from the semi-autonomous Galgudug regional administration said the victim was an American who had come to Somalia to carry out an assessment for a company building a deep water port in the town of Hobyo.

A Somali travelling with him was severely beaten when he urged the attackers not to take the man, according to the minister, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. A local security official, however, said the victim was a journalist living in Galgalyo.

In October, an American woman, a Danish man and a Somali working for the Danish Demining Group were abducted from the same town. Only the Somali has been released so far.

It has been reported that they are being held in Hobyo, a port used by Somali pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden. Kidnapping for ransom is common in Somalia and at least four aid workers, a British military official, a British tourist taken from a water port in the town of Hobyo. They were reported missing after the death toll to 26. Most of them were underweight and had been suffering from birth asphyxia,” West Bengal health services director Biswa Ranjan Saigal told AFP by telephone. Many of the terminally ill babies were referred to the Malda hospital from adjacent districts and the neighbouring states of Bihar and Jharkhand, Satpathi added.

Satpathi said the hospital has 66 beds for infants — barely enough to cope with the surge in patients. “More than 14,000 babies were admitted to the hospital over the past three months. The hospital does not have the infrastructure to offer treatment to so many infants,” he said. In June, at least 17 babies died in a period of 36 hours at another government hospital in Kolkata, highlighting the poor state of health services in West Bengal. New-born babies born in 2000 are lined up at a Kolkata hospital. At least 26 infants have died in the past five days in a state-run hospital in India’s West Bengal. The hospital has 60 beds for infants and several of them were underweight and had been suffering from birth asphyxia,” West Bengal health services director Biswa Ranjan Saigal told AFP by telephone. Many of the terminally ill babies were referred to the Malda hospital from adjacent districts and the neighbouring states of Bihar and Jharkhand, Satpathi added.

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Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage.

Shebab militia in Somalia was killed on Saturday during a drone attack in the capital Mogadishu, said the movement’s spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage.

Mogadishu, 23 Jan—A British fighter with the Shebab militia in Somalia was killed Saturday during a drone attack in the capital Mogadishu, said the movement’s spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage. The aircraft belonged, “but it is America that is known for utilizing such aircraft.”

Targeting people like Barzawwi would not put off the Shebab, he said, adding: “God willing we are all waiting to be martyrs like him.”

Witnesses reported at least three explosions near Garas/baley, about 13 kilometres (eight miles) south of Mogadishu.

“We heard three explosions a few minutes after recognizing the sound of aircraft,” said one witness, Bashar Ali.

“One of the missiles apparently hit a car belonging to Al-Shebab fighters but we don’t know who was targeted,” he added.

News of the death came as Somalia’s transitional government forces vowed Saturday to rid Mogadishu of all “violent elements.”

On Friday they launched a major offensive aimed at dislodging the Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab militia from the capital. —Internet

Pakistan arrests 31 Indian fishermen, seizes 14 boats

Islamabad, 23 Jan—Pakistan authorities have arrested 31 Indian fishermen and seized 14 boats for allegedly violating the country’s territorial waters, the Maritime Security Agency (MSA) said on Sunday.

A spokesman for MSA said that the fishermen were found within Pakistan’s exclusive economic zone. The fishermen were handed over to Docks Police in Karachi for registration of case.

They were appear before a local court later. Both countries routinely arrest each other’s fishermen as there is no water boundary demarcation and the issue is part of bilateral dialogue.

The latest arrest came two weeks after Pakistan freed 179 Indian fishermen as a “goodwill gesture and a New Year gift.” The Pakistani Fisheries Forum (PFF) says it is concerned about the arrest of fishermen on both sides. —Xinhua

Colo girl escapes apparent kidnapper, calls 911

Denver, 23 Jan—A missing 9-year-old girl escaped from an apparent kidnapper and called 911 herself from a convenience store in Colorado Springs on Friday.

The Pueblo girl was reported missing Thursday night after she didn’t return home from school. The suspect, Jose Garcia, 29, is also a suspect in an alleged molestation involving a different girl, Pueblo police Capt Eric Bravo said.

The car of the man accused of kidnapping the girl broke down on Friday morning in Colorado Springs, and a passerby gave them a ride to a Circle K, police said.

The girl ran into the convenience store and asked the employee to call her uncle but instead called 911, which prompted the man to take off, authorities said.

“One Once she realized she had that window of opportunity, she became a hero and rescued herself by calling 911,” Colorado Springs police spokeswoman Barbara Miller said in a statement. —Internet

Origin seals LNG deal with Chinese oil giant

Canberra, 23 Jan—Chinese oil company Sinopec has finalized a deal with local energy producer Origin Energy and US firm ConocoPhillips to boost its stake in a major liquefied natural gas project in Queensland.

Sinopec will pay US$1.1 billion ($1.05 billion) to increase its stake in the Australia Pacific LNG Project on Curtis Island from 15 percent to 25 percent.

The deal also means Sinopec will buy an extra 3.3 million metric tonnes of LNG per year for 20 years, making it the largest gas supply agreement in Australian history.

Federal Trade Minister Craig Emerson says the project will have widespread benefits for Queensland and represents a vote of confidence in the Australian economy. “This is a really good breakthrough and a step up in the intensity of investment in LNG,” Mr Emerson said.

“Securing these sales contracts is so important. When you’re putting in billions and billions of dollars — I think it’s $45 billion or more going into Gladstone — you need these long-term contracts.”

Origin managing director Grant King says the project remains on track and within its $23 billion budget, with the first shipments expected in 2015. —Internet

In this 18 Jan, 2012 photo, Missy Marsh, left, and her parents Debra and Robert Marsh, discuss the pressures of paying for heating during winter while having breakfast at Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City, Mich. Few Americans have welcomed this year’s mild winter so much as low-income families, who are enjoying an unexpected break from high heating costs. —Internet

Flaming-horned bull fatally gored man in Spain

Madrid, 23 Jan—A flaming-horned bull trampled and fatally gored a man early Saturday during a festival in eastern Spain, an official said. Large balls of flaming wax are traditionally affixed to the beasts’ heads before they are let loose to rampage through squares and narrow streets in such festivals.

The mayor of Navajas, population 738, said emergency services in his town were unable to save the life of the 45-year-old man whose name was withheld. Jose Vicente Torres said the accident happened when the man, who had traveled from Alboraia, about 70 kilometres (45 miles) to the south, tripped just as the bull was released.

Torres said the bull charged the man, gored him and then stomped on his head, causing him “irreversible injuries.” He had offered his condolences to the man’s family, but would not cancel similar events scheduled for early Sunday.

“He was a good and kind man who was loved,” Vicente Torres said.

Many towns in east and northeastern Spain celebrate festivities with “toros embolados,” or “flaming bulls,” which feature the animals racing around and shaking their heads as a reaction to flames or fireworks attached to or close to their horns. —Internet

Carnival reviewing cruise ship safety

Miami, 23 Jan—Carnival Corp, the US-based parent of the operator of the Costa Concordia, says it’ll review all its cruise ships’ safety and emergency-response procedures.

The review, which comes in response to the Costa Concordia disaster that has left at least 12 people dead, will examine the procedures at all 10 Carnival lines, the company said in a news release. The company said it has had an “excellent safety record over the years.”

“However, this tragedy has called into question our company’s safety and emergency-response procedures and practices,” Micky Arison, Carnival’s chairman and chief executive officer, said in a statement. “While I have every confidence in the safety of our vessels and the professionalism of our crews, this review will evaluate all practices and procedures to make sure that this kind of accident doesn’t happen again.”

The review is being led by Capt James Hunn, a retired US Navy captain and Carnival’s senior vice president of Maritime Policy & Compliance. Hunn has held senior positions at Carnival nearly a decade focusing on maritime policy and overseeing health, environmental, safety and security practices.

Miami-based Carnival also said its Health, Environment, Safety & Security Committee is enlisting outside industry experts to review all emergency-response and safety procedures and to conduct a “thorough review” of the Costa Concordia accident. —Internet

The Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) says it is concerned about the arrest of fishermen on both sides. —Xinhua

“Once she realized she had that window of opportunity, she became a hero and rescued herself by calling 911,” Colorado Springs police spokeswoman Barbara Miller said in a statement. —Internet

The New Light of Myanmar Tuesday, 24 January, 2012
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects progress...

Vice-President Thiha
Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo
at Dawei University...—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo hears reports presented by Deputy Transport Minister U Win Shein at Dawei Airport.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects progress...

(See page 1)

At the briefing hall of the project, DSEZMC Chairman Thura U Thaung Lwin reported on salient points about the project. He said that the project is intended to create jobs and socio-economic development of the region through establishment of new production and service industries, and transportation and communication networks. Moreover, the project is aimed to facilitate the regional development by bringing about new industries and businesses in regions linked with Dawei Special Economic Zone, to aid the economic development of Dawei region as well as national economic growth by attracting local and foreign investments into the region, to import modern technologies and spread these technologies all over the country thereby contributing to domestic industries and to build the region as a commercial and transportation heart of South East Asia.

He went on that 23,120 persons from 4,075 households of 3,984 houses from 18 villages were relocated. He explained measures for provision of better social and economic environment to them in detail.

Chairman of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd Mr Premchai and responsible persons made supplementary reports. In response, the Vice-President made coordination and delivered an address. In his speech, he said that under the aegis of the President, the government is specially focusing on establishing friendly ties with global countries and as a result, Myanmar’s relations with the international community is improving and prospects of economic cooperation are now foreseeable.

Nowadays, Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law and Dawei Special Economic Zone Law have been introduced to achieve sound foundations for economic development of the nation. Measures are under way to formulate laws required for Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Kyunpyu Special Economic Zone.

He added that Dawei Special Economic Zone project is intended to attract local and foreign investments into Dawei so as to spur regional development and stimulate national economic development as well. It also aimed to absorb advanced technologies and knowledge; to create jobs for locals, which will contribute to capacity of workers and spread of the technologies and knowledge throughout the country resulting in development of domestic industries. All are to give a hand to meet these objectives, urged the Vice-President.

He then called for sympathetic attitude towards the relocated persons in resettling them and measures to award compensation to them in term of better status. He added that they are to be resettled only after the new place has houses, school, hospital, market, sports ground, water and electricity. In addition, it needs to reclaim farmland and cropland for their livelihood and to provide financial assistance to them until these farmland and cropland make profits.

Moreover, it is required to take cooperative measures in setting up villages in order of continuous learning education and healthcare services to children systematically. Only then can rural development tasks be carried out effectively, and will organized villages emerge.

He stressed environmental conservation points. The main purposes of setting up special industrial zones are dedicated not only to economic boom but also to production of job opportunities for locals. It is required to stick to environmental conservation laws and related ministries need to draw required laws.

(See page 9)
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects progress…

(from page 8)

In taking approach to environmental conservation measures, government organizations, and related companies and organizations are not only to engage in greening projects but also to take advices and necessary measures inviting third parties.

But, there are still advices given and incorrect assessments due to lack of thorough understanding of some measures.

So, forming public liaison groups, the State and private companies need to focus on giving clarification in the full glare of publicity in line with international set standards, he said.

In conclusion, the Vice-President called the region government, Dawei economic zone management committee and supporting group (temporary) to give close supervision in order that related companies can fulfill needs for villages deemed to evacuate.

The Vice-President and party inspected the chosen place to construct Dawei Deep Sea Port. Chairman Mr Premchai Karnasuta of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd briefed on the project.

Next, the Vice-President and party also viewed place chosen to construct office buildings of Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee.

The Vice-President and party then went to the monastery in Laeshaung, Yebyu Township where they paid respects to the monks.

The Vice-President sympathized that the State will give better position to the relocated villages of project than before.

On behalf of monks, Laeshaung monastery Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pitthaabhivumsa gave Ovada.

The Vice-President and party offered alms to the monks, received the five precepts, and shared merits gained.

The Vice-President said in meeting with locals from Nabale region in the compound of the monastery that he and his entourage were there to coordinate the needs for Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee. The region government, the special economic zone management committee and supporting group (temporary) will closely supervise all required measures.

The relocation process will be started only when infrastructures such as house, road, school, hospital, market, and playground, and water and electricity are in complete step. Furthermore, necessary arrangements will be made for those wishing to work agriculture, garden land and livestock breeding firms.

The Vice-President said that required provisions have been prescribed in the Special Economic Zone Law and duty will be assigned to the chairman of special economic zone management committee. The region government, the special economic zone management committee and supporting group (temporary) will closely supervise all required measures.

Next, senior locals presented needs of villagers.

Plums from Singaing going to Ygn market

Singaing Township is a major mango and plum grower in Myanmar. With various types of soil, the region has a favourable weather for mango and plum trees.

Now, Taiwan plum trees in the township area are bearing a large number of fruits. The owner of the farm U Ko Ko Oo said, “We pick plum fruits as snow stops to swing in the morning till lunch break. After that, the man who categorizes the palm fruits packaged each group of the fruits. The packages are then carried by trawlers at Win Thitsar bus stop and Koemyaychantha (Family) bus stop in Singaing Township and loaded onto 10-wheeled and 12-wheeled trucks. The packages are transported to Thirimingala Market in Yangon. A package of Taiwan plums goes for K 5000 to K 8000-1000 and that of special fruits fetches K 14000. In Yangon market, the special fruits package is sold at the price of K 17000 or K 18000.”

“The plum fruits now we are transporting come from Monbin and Mogaung villages. Palm trees in Kuye and Shankan villages still have to bear fruits. The former villages will have to pick the fruits till the end of February. By the time Monbin and Mogaung left no fruits, fruits from Kuye, Shankan and other villages will be transported,” U Win Zaw, in-charge at Koemyaychantha Family bus stop, said.

Now, Taiwan plums from Singaing are flowing into Yangon and other markets in great abundance.

Translation: HKA

(Myanma Alin: 21-1-2012)


\textbf{Tornadoes possible in southern US as snow threatens}

\textit{Los Angeles}, 23 Jan—Severe storms were expected to spread across several southeastern US states on Sunday into Monday with tornadoes, high winds and large hail possible, weather forecasters said. A second stormfront expected to hit California late Sunday night will bring significant snowfall to the mountain regions, according to the National Weather Service, before rolling into the southern United States later in the week.

\textit{The potential for severe storms stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to southern Indiana and Ohio, according to AccuWeather.com meteorologist Bill Deger. “Some of the thunderstorms are even expected to spawn tornadoes, making for an especially dangerous situation given the veil of night,” Deger said.}

\textit{In Alabama, residents were bracing for storms that could hit after dark on Sunday or overnight with a strong cold front from the west combining with warm moist air flowing up from the Gulf of Mexico, said Mary Keiser, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Birmingham, Alabama.}

\textbf{Six hurt in “sweet sixteen” birthday party shooting}

\textit{San Francisco}, 23 Jan—Five teenagers and one young adult were hospitalized for gunshot wounds after bullets started flying at a “sweet sixteen” birthday party in Antioch, a bay area suburb of San Francisco, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred late Saturday night, when an argument broke out between two groups of people in a garage crowded with roughly 40 partygoers according to the Antioch police department.

\textit{A shootout between the two groups then erupted. Witnesses described a “chaotic scene” as roughly 80 party attendees fled the house once the shooting began, according to Antioch police department Lt. Robin Kelley. Six people were treated in hospital for injuries ranging from a superficial graze to a possible fractured leg and abdomen wound, police said.}

\textit{Three of the victims were treated and released from the hospital. A 13-year-old male and 21-year-old female remain in serious but stable condition, police said, while an 18-year-old male is listed in stable condition. The birthday girl was not injured, police said. Detectives are still investigating what caused the violence to break out in the quiet suburban cul-de-sac, which saw police from four separate law enforcement agencies respond. Police say three male teenagers and young adult suspects in the case, but have made no arrests. — Reuters}

\textbf{Dead woman may have been unregistered passenger}

\textit{Rome}, 23 Jan—A woman’s body pulled from the Costa Concordia wreckage might be that of an unregistered passenger, an Italian official has said as another body was discovered. The discovery of a woman’s body today brings the death toll to 13. Civil protection chief Franco Gabrielli said relatives of a Hungarian woman have told authorities that she had telephoned them from aboard the ship and that they have not heard from her since the disaster. He said it was possible that the body of a woman recovered on Saturday might be that of the unregistered passenger. The woman, who was dressed in a life jacket, was found by divers in a corridor near what had been an evacuation staging point. Mr Gabrielli, however, said the identity of the woman and three male bodies found a few days earlier have yet to be established.

\textit{Officials have so far identified eight of the 13 bodies recovered from the capsized ship. Twenty-three people are still listed as missing from the vessel which struck rocks near the port of Giglio Island, off the Tuscan coast, on the night of 13 January. The 13th body was found today as it emerged that the ship’s captain Francesco Schettino claimed that his bosses knew about the tradition of “sail by salutes” — and that he was asked to do them for publicity stunts. — Internet}

\textbf{Canadian woman beaten at Mexico resort hotel}

\textit{Mazatlan, 23 Jan—Consular officials are in contact with the family of a young Canadian woman who was reportedly beaten unconscious in a hotel in Mexico’s Mazatlan resort region and are pressing for an investigation into the incident, according to a statement released on Sunday. “Our thoughts are with the badly injured Canadian and her family during this difficult time. Our officials in Mexico have provided, and will continue to provide, consular assistance to her and her family,” said John Babcock, spokesman for Minister of State/Foreign Affairs Diane Ablonczy.}

\textit{Mexican federal police told CBC News on Sunday that the woman, reported to be in her 20s, was found lying in an alleyway early on Saturday. The police officer would not provide his own name, nor reveal details about the victim’s age or identity. Mexican media reports saylle have been assaulted in a hotel room, dragged down the hall to the elevator and then abandoned.}

\textbf{Tired new dads a safety risk}

\textit{Internet}

\textbf{Study finds}

\textit{Cape Coral}, 23 Jan— Fathers of newborns are often so tired they pose a safety risk at work and on the road, a new study has found. The research, found fathers of newborns were 36 per cent more likely to have a near miss at work, and 25 per cent more likely to have a near miss on the road. South Florida University’s Dr Gary Mellor led the study of 241 fathers, mostly from the Gold Coast, and says the study is groundbreaking because new dads are a “notoriously hard group of people” to get hold of. He says many of those surveyed battled to find a babysitting balance. “They were displaying a lot of conflict in that they were trying to put family first,” he said. “They don’t want to be that distant sole provider that their father was.”

\textit{Despite this, Dr Mellor says the fathers in the study worked an average of 49 hours a week. The majority of men involved in the research were employed as office workers or in construction and trade, and Dr Mellor says each workplace has its own set of risks. “It’s an unfair idea that a woman might be that you fall down some stairs, or you trip over cords, but it’s a greater decision you make,” he said. “On a construction site it’s working with heavy equipment, cranes, nails.” — Internet}

\textbf{Study found new dads were more likely to pose a safety risk at work. — Internet}

\textbf{101-year-old woman evicted from her home}

\textit{Detroit, 23 Jan—A 101-year-old woman who authorities promised could move back into her Detroit home after being evicted four months ago has not yet been allow to return. Texana Hollis’ home was foreclosed on by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development after her son, Warren Hollis, 65, failed to pay $7,000 in property taxes to keep a reverse mortgage, Hollis, however, said Hollis could live in his house “for as long as she wants” — but that was before HUD evaluated the property. “We saw a house that was completely unsuitable for a person to live in,” Sullivan said. “We can’t allow someone to live in that [atmosphere] now that we are essentially the owners of the property. The home isn’t safe; it’s not sanitary. It’s certainly not suitable for anyone to live in, especially not a 101-year-old mother.”}

\textit{It is unclear as to when, or if, Hollis will be able to move back into her home. “We’re not giving up,” Sullivan said. “We’re talking with anybody and everybody about this conflict in that they were displaying a lot of conflict in that they were trying to put family first.”}

\textit{It’s just like living at home, but it’s not my home.” — Internet}
Germany has the economic strengths America once boasted

Frankfurt, 23 Jan — Every summer, Volkmart and Vera Kruger spend three weeks vacationing in the south of France or at a cool getaway in Denmark. For the other three weeks of their annual vacation, they garden or travel a few hours away to root for their favourite team in Germany’s biggest soccer stadium. The couple, in their early 50s, aren’t veterinarians now. They live in a small Tudor-style house in this middle-class town about 30 miles northwest of Frankfurt. He’s a foreman at a glass factory; she works part time for a company that tracks inventories for retailers. Their combined income is a modest $40,000.

Yet the Krugers have a higher standard of living than many Americans who have twice that income. Their secret: little debt, frugal habits and a government that is intensely focused on high production, low inflation and extensive social services. That has given them job security and good medical care as well as well-maintained roads, trains and bike paths. Both of their adult children are out on their own, thanks in part to Germany’s job-training system and heavy subsidies for university education. For instance, Volkmart’s out-of-pocket costs for stomach surgery and 10 days in a hospital totaled just $13 a day. College tuition for their son runs about $206 a semester.

Germany, with its manufacturing base and export prowess, is the America of yesteryear, an economic power unlike any of its European neighbours. As the world’s fourth-largest economy, it spends more than the entertainment industry — $1.2 billion between 1998 and 2011, compared with $906.4 million spent by entertainment companies. The latest chapter in what has become an epic, decades-long battle between the two industries over copyrighted digital content began innocuously enough. Hollywood movie studios, frustrated by online theft that they claim already costs them billions of dollars a year and will only get worse, in 2010 started pushing a law that would make it possible to block access and cut off payments to foreign websites offering pirated material.

In 2010, longtime industry friend Sen Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont, introduced a bill, the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act, that passed the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously but never went further. In May last year, Leahy tried again, introducing his Protect IP (Intellectual Property) Act.

South Korea firm turns human ashes into beads

Seoul, 23 Jan — When Jeon Gyeong-suk lost her husband to cancer three months ago, she agonized over how to keep his remains. Because land is at a premium, burial was out, and she found the idea of a heap of ashes stored in an urn sort of creepy. So the 51-year-old widow paid $900 to transform her husband’s ashes into a few handfuls of tiny blush beads that have the look of beluga caviar.

Even though the beads look like pebble-sized gems, they aren’t meant to be strung into a necklace. Instead, some mourners keep them in dishes and glass containers, the point being to keep a lost loved one close by. “I miss my husband so much,” said Jeon, who buried his beads in her front yard. For Jeon and others here, the image of ashes-to-ashes, dust-to-dust just seems like unfinished burial business. Death beads, they say, are a thing of beauty. But the beads are not without their critics, who insist that they dishonor the deceased by needlessly manipulating human remains.

Lexie Joul, founder and CEO of the “death bead” firm Bontyung, says he’s served more than 1,000 customers in 10 years. He remembers one client who didn’t want to burden his children with overseeing the tomb where their grandparents were kept. So he raged the deceased and created a group of beads with the mixed remains of both parents.

Venezuela to buy Embraer, Airbus jets

Caracas, 23 Jan — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday that his government plans to buy new Embraer jets from Brazil as well as used Airbus jets to expand his country’s state airline Conviasa. Chavez said Venezuela will negotiate credit with the Brazilian Development Bank to buy up to 20 Embraer jets from Brazil.

Chavez thanked Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff “for the credit they’re going to give us.” He said the estimated cost of 20 jets would be $814 million. The Venezuelan government had said earlier this month that Chavez approved plans to buy six Embraer jets. But during Chave’s Sunday television and radio programme, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez laid out the options of buying either 10 or 20 Embraer jets.

“It’s enough to see Venezuela’s location on the map to conclude on the pressing need for us to have a very powerful airline,” Chavez said. Chavez’s government has subsidized Conviasa since its launch in 2004. The president on Sunday did not provide information about how much the government has spent on the airline in recent years. — Internet

Luxury stores ready to reap Peking pound as China eases travel restrictions for New Year

London, 23 Jan — Luxury stores are preparing for thousands of wealthy Far Eastern shoppers to coincide with the start of the Chinese Year of the Dragon. The easing of travel restrictions in China means the turn of the year has become a time for international travel and shopping for the country’s elite. They will be looking for British brands such as Burberry and Mulberry, and international brands such as Prada and Gucci.

Spending by Chinese tourists in UK stores rose by 64 percent last year, say retail analysts Global Blue, and totalled $1.165 billion. Bond Street shops have hired Mandarin-speaking staff while Harrods has installed 75 tills for Chinese shoppers and the UnionPay card, which is China’s only domestic credit card.

And yesterday, the store unveiled commemorative investment gold bars, each incorporating an Oriental Dragon, in a bid to appeal to the tourists. Richard Brown of Global Blue said: “Chinese New Year reflects an important cultural shift in China with families now travelling abroad as an alternative to celebrations at home.” Retailers are bracing themselves for a significant uplift in Chinese shoppers and hope to repeat staggering growth. “Luxury brands are set to benefit the most from this uplift, with Chinese shoppers spending on average £729 per tax free transaction favouring handbags, jewellery and watches.” — Internet

Kia to air big game ads early

Los Angeles, 23 Jan — Kia Motors USA said it would forgo running trailers of its Super Bowl ads in 18,000 movie theaters on Jan. 27, the Los Angeles Times reported on Saturday. Then, on 1 Feb, four days before the game, Kia said it would show the entire 60-second commercial, which is titled, “Drive the Dream,” at the same 18,000 theaters.

“We are trying to continue to push the envelope. Consumers at the movies will start tweeting about the ad, and that should help us build momentum and awareness,” said the company’s vice president for marketing Michael Sprague. “Every year, the Super Bowl audience grows.

And if we can tap 5 to 10 million people who see it early, there will still be 100 million people who haven’t seen it when it breaks during the Super Bowl. We are simply trying to create the buzz and get people talking,” he said.

Special measures: Harrods has installed 75 tills specifically for Chinese shoppers and made measures to accept the Union Pay card ahead of the rush. — Internet

Epic clash: Silicon Valley blindsides Hollywood on piracy

Los Angeles, 23 Jan — The massive online protest last Wednesday, in which Wikipedia and thousands of other websites closed down or otherwise protested and helped to kill controversial online piracy legislation, was widely heralded as an unreplicated case of a grassroots uprising overcoming backroom lobbying. Yet a close look at how the debate unfolded suggests that traditional means of influencing policy in Washington had its place too.

That some other European nations are just now being forced to undertake. And few countries can match Germany’s capabilities for producing and exporting machinery and other equipment, or its infrastructure for research, apprenticeships and financing that support manufacturing. — Internet

Internet
Nigeria’s President visits city where bombings killed at least 165

LAGOS, 23 Jan — Nigeria’s President toured his nation’s second largest city on Sunday after blasts there killed at least 165 people, and left the police headquarters and other government buildings in charred ruins. “The message I had for the people of Kano is the same message I have for all Nigerians: A terrorist attack on one person is an attack on all of us,” President Goodluck Jonathan said in a post on his official Facebook page after the visit. Jonathan stopped by several attack sites in the northern city, met with the wounded at a hospital and spoke with victims’ families. Authorities have lifted a daytime curfew imposed in Kano after the bombings, which hit eight government sites Friday. But an overnight curfew remained between 7 pm to 6 am, according to residents. Shell-shocked residents wandered the streets, looking for loved ones. Others hid behind barricaded doors, too scared to leave for fear of more attacks.

“That’s the scary part, not knowing,” said Faruk Mohammed, 27, who lives near one of the bombed police stations. “We don’t know what’s going to happen next, no one thought this would ever happen here. There’s a general sense of despair.” The attacks paired bomb blasts with shootings on various sites including police stations, the passport office, state security headquarters and the immigration office. During the attack, assailants entered a police station, freed detainees and bombed it, authorities said. They later canvassed the area in a car led by motorcycles, spraying targets with gunfire. — Internet

Austrian born actor and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger holds the Energy Globe Award he received during a Press conference in Guegging in the province of Burgenland, Austria on Sunday. – Intenret

Arnie visits Austrian town run on green energy

GUESSING, 23 Jan — It was another chance to tuck into a schnitzel. But Arnold Schwarzenegger’s visit to a small eastern Austrian town had a more compelling purpose. Austria’s most famous living son is proud of his record of greening California while governor. So his visit to Guessing, which meets its energy needs through renewables, was fitting. In both Guessing and California, “the world has already become a better one,” he told fans and dignitaries gathered in his honor Sunday. After a lunch of Wiener schnitzel and Kaiserschramm — chopped up pancakes with jam — Arnie toured the village’s energy plants, describing his push for green energy as “my crusade.” And yes, the “Terminator” star did say, “I’ll be back.”

Internet

Explosion injures four in Jabaliya refugee camp

GAZA CITY, 23 Jan — An explosion on Sunday in Jabaliya refugee camp injured four Palestinians, medics said. Among the injured were a couple and their son, medical officials said. The three and another man were evacuated to Kamal Udwan Hospital in northern Gaza. The cause of the blast was not immediately clear. — Internet

Toyota expected to announce job cuts

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan — The union representing Toyota workers expects the company to announce today that it will cut more than 100 jobs. The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union says a drop in demand for locally-made cars and the high Australian dollar are hurting the company, despite ending 2011 as Australia’s top car seller. The company is expected to address workers this afternoon in Melbourne. Union spokesman Ian Jones says any job cuts at Toyota will lead to further job losses elsewhere. “For every single job in automotive manufacturing, directly, you have a three to four to one flow-on effect,” he said.

“So for example they were talking 100 jobs — and I think they’re probably talking about more than that - if they’re talking about 100 jobs then there would be 300-400 jobs (lost) elsewhere in the community.”

Internet

Purported Bonnie and Clyde guns sold for $210K

KANSAS CITY, 23 Jan — Two guns thought to have been used by bank-robbing fugitives Bonnie and Clyde have snatched $210,000 at an auction. The Joplin Globe reported an online bidder from the East Coast on Saturday bought the weapons believed to have been seized from the outlaw couple’s Joplin hideout in 1933. Sold were a .45-caliber, fully automatic Thompson submachine gun — better known as a Tommy gun — and a 1897 Winchester 12-gauge shotgun. Mayo Auction, of Kansas City, was not given permission to release the name of the buyer. Two law enforcement officers died during a shootout at the Joplin apartment where the couple and members of their gang were holed up, but all the members of the Clyde Barrow gang escaped. — Internet

Companies see growth but few new jobs

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan — Few US companies plan to step up hiring in the next six months although they do expect the economy to be a bit stronger this year, according to a poll released on Monday. The National Association for Business Economics’ industry survey found that two-thirds of respondents expect no change in employment at their companies over the first half of the year. That was the highest share in recent quarters.

Although the US jobless rate fell to a near three-year low of 8.1 percent in December, fewer businesses said they would hire more workers, compared with the previous industry poll. The survey, which was conducted between 15 December 2011 and 3 January 2012, found that 65 percent of respondents expect gross domestic product growth to exceed 2 percent between the fourth quarter of last year and the last quarter of 2012. That was the highest share in recent months although they do expect no change in employment at their companies over the first half of the year. That was the highest share in recent quarters.

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Big NYC guy sues over lack of jail uniform

**A New York City man says wearing the same set of clothes in jail for eight months is just wrong even though he was too big for the largest institutional duds.**

Elia Diaz, 55, filed a $1 million federal lawsuit alleging jailers made no effort to find a jumbo jail uniform he could wear rather than the single pair of sweats and T-shirt he wore every day of his incarceration.

Diaz, who weighs 400 pounds, had to wash his clothes in the shower. Adding insult to injury was the fact the Vernon C.

Bain Centre has a tailor on staff, the New York Daily News reported. “No one has issued me institutional clothing or made any attempt to measure me, to attempt to make the clothing, or borrow, purchase or anything else besides talk about getting me institutionally issued clothing,” Diaz said in court documents.

Diaz was a size 7X when he was sentenced on a gun charge. His suit alleged the jail never seemed to be able to find a jumpsuit larger than 6X. He also claimed friends tried to send him clothing, but the packages were also rejected.

**Man uses camera to deflect shark bite**

A 42-year-old British diver photographing sharks in the Bahamas got an unplanned close-up of a inside a shark’s mouth when the shark started to bite him.

Russell Easton, of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, was taking pictures of a tiger shark off the coast of Cat Island in the Bahamas when it suddenly snapped at him, the Sunday Mirror reported.

“I was looking through the viewfinder of the camera when I suddenly saw this huge mouth and teeth,” Easton said. “Shark-bite because that is how they find out what something is,” he said. “It had its mouth wide open and was about to bite me, but hit the camera instead. That gave me a few vital seconds to swim away.”

Despite his fortunate escape, Easton said he plans to photograph sharks in the future.

UK boy calls gender differences ‘silly’

**A British couple posted an Internet video in which their gender-neutral young son says the cultural differences between boys and girls is "silly."**

“Pink and yellow are girls’ colours and blue and green are boys’ colours,” said 5-year-old Sasha Laxton. “I think that is really silly.”

Also silly, according to Sasha, is the idea that dressing up in a tutu and fairy wings at Christmas is something restricted to little girls.

The Sunday Mirror said the video was the latest appearance by Sasha, whose gender was kept a secret by his parents until he enrolled at school.

Feminist blogger Beck Laxton and her partner, Kieran Cooper, insist they are not trying to morph their son into a daughter but are instead allowing him to develop his own personality free from the constraints of sexual stereotypes.

“We wanted to challenge gender stereotypes,” Laxton said. “So if Sasha wants to dress up in girls’ clothes then so be it. He has cars and Lego and he also has dolls.”

Los Angeles, 23 Jan—Kate Beckinsale is back with a vengeance, with her latest “Underworld” movie opening at No 1 this weekend. “Underworld Awakening” made an estimated $25.4 distributor Sony Screen Gems reported on Sunday.

This is the fourth film in the vampire action saga. Beckinsale starred in the first two movies as the warrior Selene, then bowed out of part three but returned for this latest installment. “Underworld Awakening” was shown for the first time in 3-D as well as on IMAX screens, where it made $3.8 million. That’s 15 percent of the film’s weekend gross, which is a record for an IMAX digital-only run. Sony hoped the film would end up in the low-$20 million range. But Rory Bruder, the studio’s president of worldwide distribution, says the fact that it did even better despite a snow storm that hit much of the Midwest and East Coast — primarily has to do with Beckinsale’s return.

“She is such a force. Her character — you just can’t take your eyes off of her. I know the character is very dear to her, as well, and she just killed it,” Bruder said. “The 3-D aspect of the film also brings something, makes it a fun, visceral ride.” Opening in second place was “Red Tails” from executive producer George Lucas, about the Tuskegee Airmen who were the first black fighter pilots to serve in World War II. It made an estimated $10.3 million, according to 20th Century Fox, which was well above expectations; the studio had hoped to reach double digits, said Chris Aromon, executive vice president of domestic distribution. —Internet

**Underworld sinks teeth into box office with $25m**

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**Razzies worst movie awards shift to April Fool’s Day**

Los Angeles, 23 Jan—Hollywood’s wackiest season is going to linger on through April Fool’s Day this year.

Organizers of the Razzies have changed the schedule for their nominations and prize ceremony. The spoof on the Academy Awards picks the year’s worst films. The Razzies used to announce contenders the night before the Oscar nominations, which are coming Tuesday.

Razzies founder John Wilson announced Sunday that nominations this season will be released 15 Feb, the eve of the Oscar ceremony. Winners of the Razzies will be announced on 1 April. Wilson says Razzies organizers have long wanted the change and have seized the chance with April Fool’s Day. A news release announcing the change also notes that it will give the 600 Razzies voters “additional time to choose the dreck they will eventually nominate.” —Internet
Redknapp says Mario Balotelli should have been sent off

Harry Redknapp says Mario Balotelli should have been sent off for “blatantly” kicking Scott Parker in the head during the 3-2 defeat by Manchester City. Internet

Platt says mixed emotions for Man City boss Roberto Mancini

LONDON , 23 Jan — Manchester City coach David Platt says Roberto Mancini is both delighted with City’s 3-2 victory over Tottenham and disappointed his side managed to let a two-goal lead slip before Mario Balotelli’s match-winning penalty in injury time. Platt says Mancini could only “whisper” profound words in the changing room to his players after a dramatic final few minutes at the Etihad Stadium. Internet

Nedum Onuoha’s QPR transfer in doubt as Everton also make a move

LONDON , 23 Jan — Nedum Onuoha’s £3million transfer from Manchester City to QPR is in doubt after Everton expressed an interest in the defender. Hoops boss Mark Hughes said at the weekend he expected to make at least one new signing on Monday and it was thought the Onuoha deal was the closest to completion. However, the 25-year-old, who is not part of Roberto Mancini’s plans at the Etihad Stadium, has now been given another option. Everton boss David Moyes has registered his interest and a move to Goodison Park is likely to prove attractive to the player, reports the People. QPR are working on a host of other deals, as Hughes looks to build a squad capable of avoiding relegation. Chelsea centre-back Alex, Spurs midfielder Steven Pienaar, Fulham striker Bobby Zamora and Birmingham goalkeeper Ben Foster, who is currently on loan at West Brom, are among the Welshman’s targets.— Internet

Sir Alex Ferguson pleased with Man Utd defensive display

LONDON , 23 Jan — Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson says he is happy to just “keep on chasing” rivals as his team remain in second place. Internet

Mourinho faces Real Madrid revolt

MADRID, 23 Jan — Jose Mourinho was facing a Real Madrid revolt on Sunday after he claimed his players were distracting him in the back, sports daily Marca reported. Marca claimed the combustible Portuguese coach had accused some of his stars of trying to betray him by conducting a whispering campaign in the Press. “You killed me in the middle,” Mourinho was reported to have said to his players, referring to the busting area where media gather. Mourinho said the opportunity to talk to players after matches. “Obviously, as you Spanish are the world champions, your friends in the press will protect you.” The fall-out between the coach and his team came in the aftermath of Madrid’s 2-1 defeat by Barcelona in the King’s Cup-quarter-final first leg on Wednesday. Marca said that Mourinho had rowed with defender Sergio Ramos, who had claimed he had not marked Carles Puyol closely enough, allowing the veteran Barca full-back to score the equaliser in Wednesday’s tie. Internet

Andy Murray beats Mikhail Kukushkin at Australian Open 2012

MELBOURNE , 23 Jan — Andy Murray reached the Australian Open quarter-finals for the second year running. The fourth seed will face British pole vault record holder Holly Bleasdale in the last 16. The 13-time major champion’s five-time-victory at Melbourne Park—made 37 unforced errors as 56th-ranked Makarova won 6-2, 6-3 in 90 minutes. Internet

Bleasdale has broken the British record three times in the last 12 months. Internet

Holly Bleasdale smashes own British pole vault record

LYON , 23 Jan — Pole vaulter Holly Bleasdale smashed her own British indoor record and moved to second on the all-time list with a clearance of 4.78m in Lyon. The 20-year-old improved her record by one centimetre in going over at 4.78m, and managed 4.80m at the first attempt. She then cleared 4.78m at the third attempt to win the event and assume the lead in the world rankings. Only world record holder Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia has gone higher with a clearance of 5m. In attempting to beat that record, Bleasdale failed to clear 5.01m, but was nonetheless satisfied with what she achieved in France.— Internet

Serena Williams loses to Ekaterina Makarova at Australian Open 2012

MELBOURNE , 23 Jan — Serena Williams became the most high-profile casualty at the Australian Open so far after suffering a shock last-16 defeat by unseeded Ekaterina Makarova. The 13-time major champion’s five-time-victory at Melbourne Park—made 37 unforced errors as 56th-ranked Makarova won 6-2, 6-3 in 90 minutes. Internet

Petra Kvitova beats Ana Ivanovic at Australian Open 2012

MELBOURNE , 23 Jan — Petra Kvitova remains in contention for the Australian Open title and world number one ranking after beating Ana Ivanovic to reach the quarter-finals. The Czech second seed, who has a chance of replacing Caroline Wozniacki at the top of the rankings, won 6-7(0) 7-6(7-2) on a scrorching day at Melbourne Park. “It was a really tough match at the end of the second set,” said the reigning Wimbledon champion. Kvitova will play Sara Errani of Italy who beat China’s Zheng Jie 6-0, 6-3. Internet

United set to rival Spurs in chase for £24m Brazil hotshot Damiao

MANCHESTER, 23 Jan — Manchester United are interested in Brazil striker Leandro Damiao. The 22-year-old was subject of a £5million bid from Tottenham in the summer but his club Internacional want £24m. United are also continuing to show interest in Crystal Palace full-back Nathaniel Clyne and Southampton’s Luke Shaw. Internet

Tsonga has a winning record against the 24th seed, the first Japanese man to reach the Australian quarter-finals for 80 years, and the Scot approaches that match on Wednesday feeling fresh. He described the win over the 24-year-old Kazakh player as “boring” and stated his intention to return to Rod Laver Arena later on Monday for an extra practice session. Internet

Williams had won her last 17 matches at Melbourne Park.— Internet

Andy Murray extended his winning run to nine matches with an easy victory.— Internet

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MELBOURNE , 23 Jan — Andy Murray reached the Australian Open quarter-finals for the second year running after Mikhail Kukushkin retired through injury while trailing 6-1, 6-1, 1-0. The effects of two five-set matches in rounds two and three took their toll on Kukushkin, who pulled out with a left hip flexor problem after 49 minutes. “It was hot on the court and it is good for me that I have conserved energy,” Murray said British number one Murray. “No, but sometimes you have to be the coach?” “Ramos: ‘So you are trying to be the coach?’ ”Ramos: “No, but sometimes you have to change the marking in a match. As a match you have never worn the shirt as a high-level player, you wouldn’t know that this situation sometimes presents itself’’—MADRID were due to host Athletic Bilbao on Sunday evening, when they will bid to re-establish their five-point lead at the La Liga summit.— Internet

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MANAG, 23 Jan — Cristiano Ronaldo scored two penalties as Real Madrid restored their five-point La Liga advantage with a 4-1 win over Athletic Bilbao as the club reeled from allegations of a player revolt. Ronaldo took his season’s league tally to 23, just hours after Lionel Messi had hit a fifth hat-trick of the season in Barcelona’s 4-1 triumph at Malaga. That put the Argentine star on 22 goals for the campaign as the champions temporarily cut the gap on their bitter rivals.

**Task**

State IRD U Khin Maung Win discussed levying various tasks.— District IPRD

When you see what we created in the second half, it’s money is not the target. It never has been in life. Wenger replied “I don’t. Spending must spend to improve, Wenger replied “I don’t. Spending

Bacary Sagna, Kieran Gibbs and Andre Santos return to full time playing out of position at full-back and it was no rush into the transfer market to beef up his Arsenal squad.

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<td>Local Talent</td>
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<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>3. Song Of National Races</td>
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<td>8:40 am</td>
<td>4. Teleplay (Traffic)</td>
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<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>5. Local Talent</td>
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<td>10:10 pm</td>
<td>7. News</td>
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<td>8. Bakery World</td>
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<td>10:30 pm</td>
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**Barclays Premier League**

Wenger was able to give Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain his first Barclays Premier League start yesterday. The 18-year-old winger took full advantage, causing havoc down both flanks with his speed and trickery. He out-robin van Persie for the equaliser in the second half after Valencia had put United ahead, but found himself off the pitch two minutes later when Wenger surprisingly substituted the youngster for unpunished forward Andrey Arshavin. Many Arsenal fans booed loudly and even captain Van Persie seemed at odds with the move, appearing to mouth “no” as the fourth official held the ball aloft indicating Oxalde-Chamberlain’s departure.

To make matters worse, Arshavin’s slack marking allowed Welbeck to turn home the winner nine minutes from time.

Nevertheless, Wenger insists the substitution was justified and lashed out at the fans who criticised him.

He said: “I can understand that the fans are upset about the substitution, especially when it doesn’t work, but (Oxalde-Chamberlain) had started to fatigue. ‘He was sick later when Wenger surprisingly substituted the youngster for unpunished forward Andrey Arshavin. Many Arsenal fans booed loudly and even captain Van Persie seemed at odds with the move, appearing to mouth “no” as the fourth official held the ball aloft indicating Oxalde-Chamberlain’s departure.”

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**Drug-resistant malaria found in Greater Mekong Sub-region**

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin addresses opening of Myanmar Artemisinin Resistance Containment (MARC) Symposium.—**MNA**

**Semi-finals of Nay Pyi Taw Inter-ministry volleyball (2012)**

**NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—**The semi-finals for the fifth Nay Pyi Taw Inter-ministry volleyball (2012) continued at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Stadium this morning and evening. In the morning event, the Ministry of Industry team beat the Ministry of Construction team 3-1. In the evening event, the Ministry of Border Affairs team routed the Ministry of Information team 3-0. On 26 January, the Ministry of Information team meets the Ministry of Construction team for the third place. And on 27 January, the Ministry of Industry team plays against the Ministry of Border Affairs team for the final match.—**MNA**

**Workshop on Livestock Products Market held in Pathein**

**PATEHIN, 23 Jan—**In accord with the rural development and poverty alleviation programme of Ayeyawady Region, a workshop on Livestock Products Market took place at the office of Ayeyawady Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Pathein on 31 December. Deputy Director of Region LBVD Dr Tin Maung Aye made a speech. Members of the Region Livestock Breeding Committee, layer breeders and egg traders participated in discussions on market situation of livestock breeding and the ways to improve it.—**Duggle IPRD**

**Significant night temperatures (23-1-2012)**

- Haka: (-1°C)
- Pinlaung: (0°C)
- Namhsan: (1°C)
- Lolin: (1°C)
- Heho: (2°C)

**Lampard learns injury fate Midfielder set to miss QPR clash with minor calf tear**

**LONDON, 23 Jan—**The midfielder was substituted before half-time on Saturday as Chelsea played out a goalless draw with Norwich in the Premier League. Lampard was later seen on the bench with the leg heavily strapped but Andre Villas-Boas stated after the game that he was hopeful the injury was not too serious. Scans have now shown that the England international only suffered a minor problem and should be available for selection again in the near future. Revealing the extent of the damage in a statement on their official website, Chelsea indicated that Lampard would probably sit out this weekend’s clash with QPR. Sky Bet Odds: Could an injury lay off open the door for interested clubs to make offers for the Chelsea midfielder? He’s 11/2 to sign for LA Galaxy! Bet now. The Blues then face Swansea in the league on Tuesday 31st January and will hope to have Lampard back in contention.

**Scientists test sick Alaska seals for radiation**

**SEATTLE, 23 Jan—**Scientists in Alaska are investigating whether local seals are being sickened by radiation from Japan’s crippled Fukushima nuclear plant. Scores of ringed seals have washed up on Alaska’s Arctic coastline since July, suffering or killed by a mysterious disease marked by bleeding lesions on the hind flippers, irritated skin around the nose and eyes and patchy hair loss on the animals’ fur coats. Biologists at first thought the seals were suffering from a virus, but they have so far been unable to identify one, and tests are now underway to find out if radiation is a factor. “We recently received samples of seal tissue from diseased animals captured near St Lawrence Island with a request to examine the material for radioactivity,” said John Kelley, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Marine Science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. “There is concern expressed by some members of the local communities that there may be some relationship to the Fukushima nuclear reactor’s damage,” he said. The results of the tests would not be available for “several weeks,” Kelley said.—**Reuters**

**Labour Ministry closely cooperating with ILO for forced labour issues**

**Tuesday, 24 January, 2012**

**A new way to beat blood cancer?**

**Andy Murray beats Mikhail Kukushkin at Australian Open 2012**

**Redknapp says Mario Balotelli should have been sent off**