Lt-Gen Myint Swe addresses the meeting of Management Committee for Industrial Zones in Yangon Division.

YANGON, 29 Jan — The coordination meeting of Management Committee for Industrial Zones in Yangon Division was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Command Headquarters in Kinnintha here this afternoon with an address by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, the secretary of Yangon Division PDC, departmental officials and responsible persons of industrial zones presented reports on progress of works at the meeting.

After hearing reports on works being carried out and requirements presented by the chairmen of management committees, responsible persons and entrepreneurs, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and officials attended to the needs. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Lt-Gen Myint Swe.— MNA

A trip from Kissapanadi Bridge to scenic beauty of MraukU Township in Rakhine State

Well-known Kissapanadi Bridge lies on Yangon-Sittway Road linking MraukU and Kyauktaw in Rakhine State. (See page 7)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Friday, 30 January, 2009**

**Take preparedness measures against natural disasters**

Today, the whole world is facing natural disasters such as strong earthquakes and storms, winds, stemming from climate changes.

Myanmar suffered a cyclone last year, and therefore it is required to take preparedness measures against natural disasters to avert heavy losses.

Having a coast stretching 360 miles along the Bay of Bengal, Rakhine State may be hit by a storm at any time. Accordingly, preparedness work is to be done through projects to avoid such painful experiences faced by Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions in the storm.

Communication systems have been installed along the coast for issuing early storm warnings. High-raised roads are to be built near the villages to be able to take shelter in the face of a storm.

Villages concerned have to practise drills of getting onto nearby hillocks and heights.

Mangrove forests are to be established along the coast as they can defend the seaside regions against storm winds and tidal waves.

Taking things serious and learning lessons from the untold miseries that took place in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions, the people have to take great care in their activities in order not to face avoidable losses.

Local people have to join hands with the government in natural disaster preparedness programmes in order that their home towns will be free from undesirable consequences caused by storms.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Appointment of Ambassador-Head of Delegation of EU Commission agreed on**

**NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan**—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. David Lipman as Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. David Lipman was born in London on 19 May 1949. He received a Degree of Laws (LLB) from the London University and Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations from Boston University. He joined as an official at the Home Office in 1970 and served at the Immigration Service till 1973. From 1973 to 1976 he served as an assistant Desk Officer for Turkey, Yugoslavia and Greece at Directorate General for External Relations of the European Commission and from 1976 to 1980 he was a member of Delegation of the Commission for the Greek Accession Negotiations. From 1980 to 1981 he served as the Desk Officer for Greece and from 1981 to 1985 he served as the Desk Officer for Cyprus and Malta. From 1985 to 1995 he worked as the Assistant to the Director-General for Relations with countries of Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. He also served as Head of the Unit of the Management of Human and Financial Resources of the Secretariat General. Since 2004 to date, he has been serving as Director for Resources of the Directorate General for External Relations.

H.E. Mr. David Lipman will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand.

**H&T Minister receives Japanese Ambassador**

**NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan**—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing received Japanese Ambassador Mr. Yasuaki Nogawa at his office yesterday morning.

They discussed cooperation in tourism industry between Myanmar and Japan.

**Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing meets Japanese Ambassador Mr. Yasuaki Nogawa to Myanmar.**—MNA

**IBTC Open Golf Championship concludes**

**YANGON, 29 Jan**—IBTC Open Golf Championship, third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, Myanmar PGA and main sponsor International Beverage Trading Co Ltd. brought to an end at Ayethaya Golf Resort of Taunggyi, Shan State (South) on 28 January. The final round and prize presentation ceremony was held at the same venue on the same day.

After the final round, officials awarded prizes to daily best winners in the men’s amateur and professional golfer levels, first-placed Nay Bala Win Myint with 302 total strokes, second-placed Bo Bo with 304 total strokes and third-placed Than Zaw with 310 total strokes in the men’s amateur level; first-placed Myint Thaung (Srixon) with 293 total strokes, second-placed Min Naing (Srixon) with 294 total strokes and third-placed Soe Kyaw Naing with 295 total strokes.

Next, on behalf of the President of MGF and Myanmar PGA, Vice-President U Min Thein presented cash award to first-placed Nay Bala Win Myint in the men’s amateur level and cheque to first-placed Myint Thaung (Srixon) in the professional golfer level.

**Afterwards,** Executive Director U Tint Oo of IBTC presented souvenir honoured by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd to U Thein Myint Aung.—MNA

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<th>MYANMAR GAZETTE</th>
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<td>NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Director-General U Hsan Myint of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue as Director-General of the Revenue Appellate Department under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.</td>
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**The prize winners seen after the end of third leg of IBTC Open Golf Championship.**—MGN
Iran tells US to show change in policy

TEHERAN, 29 Jan—Iran said on Wednesday it would welcome President Barack Obama’s offer of a change in US policy provided it involved a withdrawal of US troops from abroad and an apology for past “crimes” against Teheran.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was speaking after Obama offered to extend a hand of peace if Iran “unclenched its fist.” This marked a new approach from George W. Bush, who had sought to isolate Teheran, and Western diplomats said the change in Washington could offer a “once-in-a-generation” chance for the two foes to end three decades of hostility.

But the diplomats said that, while some pragmatic voices in Iran wanted better ties with the West, more hardline voices who control key levers of power could block an opening amid fears that Washington still wants to undermine the ruling system.

“We welcome change but on condition that change is fundamental and on the right track,” Ahmadinejad told a rally in western Iran, broadcast live on state television.

“When they say policy would change, it means they would end America’s military presence around the world,” he said, referring to US troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world.

Army to report record number of suicides

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan—The US Army will report Thursday the highest level of suicides among its soldiers since it began tracking the rate 28 years ago, CNN has learned.

Statistics obtained by CNN show the Army will report 128 confirmed suicides last year and another 15 suspected suicides in cases under investigation among active-duty soldiers and activated National Guard and reserves.

The confirmed rate of suicides for the Army was 20.2 per 100,000. Army officials were reviewing the suspected suicides Wednesday. If any of them are confirmed, the rate would rise.

Last month, Army officials said the nation’s suicide rate was 19.5 people per 100,000, a 2005 figure considered the most recent.

Military officials have long said it is difficult to compare the military suicide rate with that of the private sector because of demographic differences and overall human stress factors. Another factor is that military suicides tend to be committed by young men with access to weapons. For 2007, the Army reported 115 confirmed suicides, then the highest level since 1980, when it began tracking suicides.

Cuban leader seeks Russian boost

MOSCOW, 29 Jan—Cuban President Raul Castro has arrived in Moscow for the first such visit since the end of the Cold War.

Mr Castro, who officially took over as president from his brother, Fidel, in February 2008, has said he wants to expand ties with Russia.

Relations cooled after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and the flow of trade and subsidies to Cuba ended.

But relations have warmed recently Mr Castro’s visit follows one to Havana by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

“Relations between Russia and Cuba are excellent and this visit will serve to strengthen ties between our countries,” Mr Castro told the Russian Itar-Tass news agency ahead of his arrival.

Russia was the first country to send humanitarian aid to Cuba after two major hurricanes last year, and the two countries signed major trade deals in November ahead of the visit by Mr Medvedev.

US can’t confirm report on Russia easing missile stance

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan—The United States cannot confirm a media report that Russia will not follow through on its threat to deploy missiles near Poland in response to a US plan to place a missile defense system in the eastern European country.

The subject was raised at a news briefing.

The report — from the Russian news agency Interfax, which cited unnamed Russian Foreign Ministry sources — said Moscow was reconsidering its stance because it senses a reluctance on the part of the Obama administration to proceed with the Bush administration’s plan to station the US system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The United States has said the system was aimed at countering a potential missile strike from rogue nations, such as Iran. Moscow sees it as a threat to Russia. The subject was a major irritant in US-Russia relations during the Bush administration, which pushed the programme forward. Russia would have said it would station the missiles in Kaliningrad, the Russian enclave between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea.

Israel expels Venezuelan Ambassador

JERUSALEM, 29 Jan—Israel has expelled Venezuela’s Ambassador in response to Venezuela’s expulsion of an Israeli envoy and the rupture of diplomatic relations earlier this month.

Venezuelan head of mission Rolan Betancourt and two other diplomats were given until Friday to leave.

“Due to the decision of Venezuela to cut relations with us a few weeks ago, we told the Venezuelan charge d’affaires that he and his staff should leave Israel,” Foreign Ministry official Lior Hayat said. “We told them they are declared persona non grata in Israel.”

A vehicle drives under a tree that is weighed down by ice on Old Wire Road as a result of wintry weather on 28 Jan, 2009, in Fayetteville, Ark.

Internet
Toyota to recall 3000 cars in New Zealand

Wellington, 29 Jan — More than 3,000 late model Toyota Yaris cars are to be recalled in New Zealand due to a potential seatbelt fault, New Zealand media reported on Thursday.

The move was part of a global recall by Toyota of more than 1.35 million Yitis, Belts, and Ractis cars. The Yitis is marketed in New Zealand as the Yaris.

The potential fault is in the gas-fired pre-tensioner in the front seatbelts which, in a worst case scenario, could cause a fire after a collision.

There have been no reports of problems in New Zealand models but there have been three cases reported overseas.

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Health workers in protective suits during a bird flu outbreak drill in Denpasar, Indonesia which is the country worst-hit by avian influenza.—Internet

Egypt refuses permit off loading Iran’s aid consignment

Teheran, 29 Jan — Egypt refused to permit off loading Iranian aid consignment for Gaza, Iran’s official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

“Cairo has officially opposed the off loading of Iranian humanitarian aid consignment from a ship destined for Gaza as assistance for the oppressed people,” IRNA quoted an unnamed source as saying in Jeddah.

On Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the head of Egyptian Interest Section in Cairo.

The meeting between the Egyptian and Iranian envoys was described by an official source as “unsatisfactory.”

Archaeologists try to revive daily life of 2,000-year-old ancient Chinese capital

Beijing, 29 Jan — Archaeologists are uncovering the details of city life as it was 2,000 years ago in the ancient Chinese capital of Chang’an.

As the capital of the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC to 8 AD), Chang’an was a metropolis with an area of 36 square kilometres, about four times the size of the contemporary Rome. Its ruins lay in the suburb of today’s Xi’an, capital of northwestern Shaanxi Province.

“After about five decades of work, we can map out the city’s clear layout now, but we still know little about how its 240,000 residents lived,” said Liu Zhendong, the head of an excavation team from the Institute of Archaeology under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), in an interview with Xinhua here.

The 12-gate, walled city had eight avenues, each of which were 45 to 55 meters wide and lined with trees.

Its wall was 12 metres high, 25,700 meters long and surrounded by an eight-metre-wide moat. To run around it would be equal to take running half marathon.

“Archaeologists have excavated several major palaces and city gates but have not discovered the residences of ordinary people,” Liu said. “Did they live in courtyards like those in old Beijing? We do not know.”

The city was divided into 11 neighbourhoods.—Xinhua

China tourism revenue hits $170 bln in 2008

Beijing, 29 Jan—China’s tourism revenue totaled 1.16 trillion yuan (169.5 billion US dollars) last year, up 5.8 percent year-on-year, according to the National Tourism Administration.

The revenue includes 874.9 billion yuan earned from local travelers and 283.9 billion yuan from overseas tourists. The two figures for 2007 were 777.1 billion yuan and 312.9 billion yuan, respectively.

The data showed that domestic tourism still held up while inbound tourism declined as the global economic slowdown cut travel demand.

Last year China received 130 million inbound travelers, including those from Hong Kong, Macao and Taipei, down 1.4 percent from a year earlier.

The number of foreign tourists was 24.3 million, down 6.8 percent from the previous year. The number of inbound travelers staying longer than one night dropped 3.1 percent to 53.1 million.

The global financial crisis cut inbound travel, but China’s outbound tourism bucked the trend.

Chinese tourists made 45.8 million outbound tours in 2008, up 11.9 percent from 2007, as the appreciation of the yuan against most other currencies raises their purchasing power.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Obama weighs “tough choices” on Iraq, Afghanistan

Washington, 29 Jan — US President Barack Obama said on Wednesday he is going to make some tough choices on Iraq and Afghanistan, as the White House hinted that such a decision will come “relatively soon.”

“We’re going to have some difficult decisions that we’re going to have to make, surrounding Iraq and Afghanistan most immediately,” Obama said after meeting with members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during his first visit to the Pentagon as president.

However, he did not elaborate on what these decisions might be.

“Going after extremists” who would harm the United States also is “up permost in our minds,” Obama said, who was accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden.

The president said he and US military leaders talked about a range of issues facing the military as well as “threats that face this nation.”

The Pentagon visit comes as military planners are looking to draw down the US troop presence in Iraq while sending more troops to Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Biofuel-loaded Japan Airlines Boeing 747-300 sits on the ground during the demonstration of its engine ground-run test at Tokyo International Airport in Tokyo, on 29 Jan, 2009. Using blend of 50 percent biofuel and 50 percent traditional Jet-A jet (kerosene) fuel, JAL conducts an hour-long demonstration flight on Friday.—Internet

A man checks a Nintendo DS game software at a Tokyo store on 29 Jan, 2009. Nintendo Co said on Thursday that net profit for the April-December period fell 18 percent as an appreciating yen cut into soaring demand for its gaming products.—Internet
US envoy urges ending Hamas arms smuggling, opening Gaza border crossings

JERUSALEM, 29 Jan—Visiting US special envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell said on Wednesday that a lasting ceasefire in the Gaza Strip requires ending the arms smuggling into and opening the border crossings with the Hamas-ruled enclave.

It is “of critical importance” to shore up the 10-day-old Gaza ceasefire and instate a long-term truce that sees an end to rocket fire and other anti-Israel attacks from the coastal strip come to an end, and that the border crossings will remain closed, except for humanitarian aid, until kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit is released.

Earlier in the day, Mitchell met with Israel’s premier and confirmed the findings of many other studies that forcedfeeding benefits child development. Mitchell said on Wednesday that a lasting ceasefire in the Gaza Strip requires ending the arms smuggling into and opening the border crossings with the Hamas-ruled enclave.

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It is “of critical importance” to shore up the 10-day-old Gaza ceasefire and instate a long-term truce that sees an end to rocket fire and other anti-Israel attacks from the coastal strip come to an end, and that the border crossings will remain closed, except for humanitarian aid, until kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit is released.

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Fast-food may negate breastfeeding benefit

EDMONTON, 29 Jan—Breastfeeding may reduce the chance of children developing asthma, but a Canadian researcher says fast-food may negate that benefit.

Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj of the University of Alberta finds eating fast-food more than once or twice a week negated the beneficial effects of breastfeeding in protecting children from the respiratory disease.

“Like other studies, we found that fast-food consumption was associated with asthma,” Kozyrskyj said in a statement.

The research confirmed the findings of many other studies about the benefits of breastfeeding in relation to asthma. Kozyrskyj and colleagues find breastfeeding for too short a time was linked to a higher risk of asthma, or conversely that children exclusively breastfed 12 weeks or longer as infants had a lower risk.

“But this beneficial effect was only seen in children who did not consume fast-food, or only occasionally had fast-food,” Kozyrskyj said. —Internet

One dead, many hurt in fireworks blast

MANILA, 29 Jan—An explosion at a fireworks factory in the northern Philippines Thursday morning left at least one person dead and more than 20 injured, police said.

The blast occurred about 11 am at a Starmaker fireworks factory in a village in Cavite Province several miles southwest of Manila, the Chinese news agency Xinhua reported.

Local police Chief Reynaldo Galang told a radio station one body had been found and more than 20 people had been taken to a hospital. Police were investigating the cause of the explosion, Xinhua said. —Internet

Japanese officials raid shipbuilder

OITA CITY, 29 Jan—Police in Japan on Thursday raided a shipbuilder in Oita City as part of an investigation into an accident in which two workers died and 24 were injured. The accident occurred when a gangway collapsed at Minaminippon Shipbuilding Company’s shipyard.

Officials are probing whether the company was negligent, Kyodo, the Japanese news agency, reported.

Obama, Aso agree to meet in June

TOKYO, 29 Jan—Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso and US President Barack Obama have agreed to summit in early June, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

In a phone call on Thursday, Aso and Obama also agreed to work together to tackle the global financial crisis, Kyodo reported. The 10-minute call was the first time the men have spoken to each other since Obama took office on 20 Jan, the news service reported.

Since his inauguration, Obama has held telephone talks with leaders of more than 10 countries, including Israel, Egypt, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Brazil and Australia. —Internet

Police find remains of suspected gang victims in well

TONACATEPEQUE, 29 Jan—Police said on Wednesday they found the remains of what they believe to be eight to 10 gang victims at the bottom of a well outside El Salvador’s capital.

Five detectives were lowered about 100 feet into the well, where they found skulls, bones, hair and possibly the remains of a child, said federal homicide investigator Isaac Antonio Ticas.

Police believe the victims were killed by Mara Salvatrucha gang members, about two dozen of whom operate in and around Tonacatepeque, outside San Salvador. The victims appear to have been stabbed to death and then tossed into the well over the past two years, Ticas said.

Ticas said authorities are trying to confirm how many bodies the bones correspond to, but they believe they represent eight to 10 victims.

Families searching for missing loved ones went to the scene Wednesday as detectives carefully extracted the remains from the well.

“Here everyone is afraid of gangs,” said a woman who asked not to be identified for fear of gang reprisal. “They’ve killed two of my sons just because they worked. No one is safe.” Authorities said it will take at least two weeks to extract all the remains, which forensics specialists will attempt to identify through DNA testing.

Sony quarterly loss on weak sales

TOKYO, 29 Jan—Sony, set to make its first annual loss in 14 years, has reported a quarterly loss as weak sales of goods and a stronger yen have taken their toll.

The firm reported an operating loss of 18bn yen ($200m; £141m) for the October to December third quarter, down from 236.22bn yen profit a year before.

The broader global recession has hit consumer demand for its products.

Nintendo is set to give its quarterly results too, giving a further indicator of the state of Japan’s economy.

Japanese firms have domi-

ated the electronics business for decades, but are now suffering.

Exporters are struggling from falling worldwide demand for their products. They have also been hit by a strong yen which currently makes it harder to compete against rivals from countries such as South Korea. Sony said this year it was making its first annual loss in 14 years as the global economic slowdown hits demand for its products. —Internet
Indonesia to develop 136 energy self-sufficient villages

JAKARTA, 29 Jan — The Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry plans to develop 136 energy self-sufficient villages using local natural resources, which is estimated to create 3,400 job opportunities in 2009, the Antara News Agency on Thursday quoted the ministry’s secretary general Wayono Karna as saying.

“The plan is part of the 2009 energy and mineral resources infrastructure stimulus programme,” he said.

The programme is expected to involve some 75 billion rupiah of budget and to fulfill the country’s energy needs soon after completion. — Antara

Australian accused of throwing child to her death

MELBOURNE, 29 Jan — A man has been charged with throwing his 4-year-old daughter to her death from a traffic bridge above a river in Australia’s second-largest city, officials said.

The 36-year-old father was scheduled to appear in a Melbourne court later on Thursday charged with murder, police Sgt. Creina O’Grady said. He faces a maximum life sentence if convicted.

The girl was rushed to a hospital before her death and was found in the Yarra River in Melbourne.

Earthquakes shake El Salvador, Guatemala, Ecuador

MEXICO CITY, 29 Jan — Two earthquakes shook on Wednesday the border regions of El Salvador and Guatemala and Ecuador, but there were no reports of casualties or material damage.

According to information reaching here from San Salvador, a 5.1-magnitude earthquake was strongly felt across its western regions of Ahuachapan, Santa Ana and Sonsonate.

The quake struck at 11:24 am local time (1724 GMT) with epicenter in Sonsonate, the capital of Sonsonate Province near the country’s border with its northern neighbor Guatemala, said the National Service of Territorial Studies (SNTE). SNTE said its epicenter was 47 km in depth.

The Guatemalan National Institute of Seismology (INS) measured the quake at a magnitude of 5.2 on the Richter scale. According to INS, its epicenter was near the country’s border with Salvador, at a depth of 80 km under the Pacific Ocean.

The quake was felt in much of Guatemala’s central, east and southeast regions. Meanwhile, the Ecuadorian Geophysics Institute said that an earthquake of 4.1-magnitude shook the Guayas province in Ecuador’s southwest coast early Wednesday morning. — Internet

Moderate quake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 29 Jan — A moderate quake measuring 5.5 on Richter scale struck eastern parts of Indonesia on Thursday, no report of damage or casualty, the local meteorology agency said.

The quake hit at 11:45 Jakarta time (0445 GMT) with epicenter at 11 kilometres Kupang of East Nusa Tenggara Province and at 57 kilometres in depth, an official of the agency said. — Antara

Texas boys find 95-year-old’s long-lost class ring

Franklin Weeks figures he lost his college class ring sometime in the 1980s while helping his church put in new playground equipment.

Luke and Sam Lytle can vouch for the 95-year-Lufkin man’s theory. They found the missing ring — Stephen F Austin State Teachers College, Class of 1937 — on Monday while testing their new metal detector at the Ryan Chapel playground in Diboll.

Twelve-year-old Luke says he and his 8-year-old brother thought about selling it to a gold reclamation shop, but his conscience dictated a search for its owner.

An Internet search using the initials engraved inside the ring traced it to Weeks. He gave them $20 and told them, “I hope you keep on hunting. Pretty soon you might find something you can keep.”

Man accused of selling daughter for cash, beer

Police have arrested a Greenfield man for allegedly arranging to sell his 14-year-old daughter into marriage in exchange for $16,000, 100 cases of beer and several cases of meat.

Police said they only learned of the deal after the 36-year-old man went to them to get his daughter back because payment wasn’t made as promised. The man was arrested on Sunday on suspicion of human trafficking.

Officers also arrested an 18-year-old man on suspicion of statutory rape. Investigators believe the girl went willingly with the man, but she’s under California’s legal age of consent and can’t legally marry.

Police say arranged marriages involving underage girls have become a problem in this small Central Coast farming community.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 30 January, 2009

Man, 83, misses bus after dancing with young women

An 83-year-old South Bend man said he missed his bus home from the presidential inauguration because he was dancing. Mussa Muhammad said his “spirit jumped sky-high” when President Barack Obama took the oath of office on Tuesday. He became separated from his group and, he said, “just danced and danced” with a couple of young women he met along the way.

Muhammad’s tour group waited five hours for him, but left Washington after tour leaders spoke with his wife. Rev. Lefate Owens of Elkhart Community Missionary Baptist Church said she assured them that Muhammad would be all right.

Muhammad said he got on the wrong bus and got off in Pittsburgh, where he took a Greyhound bus home.

He arrived in South Bend Wednesday, still wearing the black-and-white suit with red dots that he wore to the inauguration.

NEWS ALBUM

The security robot prototype T-34, jointly developed by robot developer Tmsuk Co Ltd and security company Alacom Co Ltd, is demonstrated at a press preview in Tokyo.

A gas-compressor station near the Ukraine-Romanian border. As the prolonged energy crisis between Moscow and Kiev shows no signs of easing, jokes about a dispute that has left Europe freezing have begun making the rounds in both Russia and Ukraine.
A trip from Kissapanadi Bridge to scenic beauty of MraukU Township in Rakhine State

Article: Reporter Singu Soe Win; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Zoology graduates (1966-1996) paying respects to former faculty members of Zoology Department of Yangon University at Shwegyin Nikaya Sasana (from page 1)

Thein and MraukU Hotel Manager U Aung Myo Thein.

After visiting beautiful buildings with shady trees and flowery plants, we had interviews with Hotel Manager U Aung Myo Thein and Receptionist in-charge Daw Hsan Hsan Nwe.

“Our hotel is located near Shithaung Pagoda in Nyaungbinzay Market, east of MraukU and near Yangon-Sittway Road. It was opened on 18 September 1996. On 5.54 acres of land, the hotel was built with hostels, reception hall, office, mess hall, buildings for stove and generator and flowery plants were grown around the buildings for relaxation and to create beautiful scenes for the visitors,” explained Hotel Manager U Aung Myo Thein.

The hotel services were offered with accommodation of eight suites at four hostels and 16 rooms at eight hostels, totalling 24. On 2 May 2002, major repair works were undertaken at two suites for very VIPs. During our visit, the hotel services were available with one Presidential Suite, six suites and 16 superior rooms, totalling 23.

Every superior room is formed with one 16 feet x 18 feet x 9 feet bed room and one 6 feet x 12 feet x 9 feet bath room. Each suite includes one 12 feet long, 18 feet wide and nine feet high sitting room, one 16 feet long, 18 feet wide and nine feet high bedroom and one 12 feet long, 12 feet wide and nine feet high bath room.

Manager U Aung Myo Thein conducted us round the buildings and rooms at the hotel. Receptionist in-charge Daw Hsan Hsan Nwe said, “Our hotel serves the visitors with a main dish of chicken or pork or beef or mutton curry and side dishes at K 2,400. One more main dish will cost K 1,200. The price is the same for all foreign tourists. If the visitor places orders for meals, the chefs of the hotel can serve them with the standard meals.”

In the previous year, a total of 120 foreign tourists and 1,924 domestic visitors stayed at the hotel.

In MraukU, Nawarat Hotel, MraukU Princess Hotel, Wethali Hotel and Prince Hotel and many inns including private-owned Wady Hlut Lodge are giving hotel services to the visitors. For ensuring convenience of the visitors, the highway buses charge K 20,000 per passenger from Yangon to MraukU, and jeeps can be rented at K 15,000 per day in MraukU.

On 31 December 2008, we arrived at MraukU Hotel. In commemoration of the New Year Eve, tickets per K 7,000 each were sold for the bonfire, dinner and karaoke festivity. Under the arrangements of MraukU Hotel, the local people welcomed the New Year joyfully.

As MraukU is located about 12 miles from Kyauktaw, it is a short and comfortable trip for the visitors wishing to continue their tour. If anyone arrives at MraukU, may dial 043-22300 of MraukU Hotel for the relaxation.

Water under Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) changed

Watercrafts have been informed to safely travel between piers No. 3 and No. 4 of Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) as from 24 January 2009.

For the safety of watercrafts, the waterway under the bridge has been changed from the way between pier No. 7 and No. 8, to drive in parallel along the waterway as the edges of the base reinforced infrastructures of the piers are 15 ft away from the piers and downstream watercrafts to be given priority to have the right of way, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems said.— MNA
NAYPYITAW, 29 Jan—
The Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information celebrated its 18th founding anniversary at the ministry here yesterday afternoon.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in his address said the departments and enterprises under the ministry hold their founding anniversary with two objectives: to review last year's strengths and weaknesses in pursuance of the missions, and to expedite the functions by honouring outstanding staff.

The ministry’s main duty is to organize the people through media for nation-building tasks, public relations to participate by means of mass media and outstanding staff. The functions by honouring the missions, and to expedite weaknesses in pursuance of year's strengths and objectives: to review last ministry hold their founding enterprises under the said the departments and

Kyaw Hsan in his address yesterday afternoon.

The Information and Public Relations Department

The objectives of the ministry for 2009-2010 are (1) to organize the people through media for successful implementation of the State’s seven-step Road Map, (2) to upgrade the media to catch up with today’s technological advancements, (3) to launch media attacks and counter media attacks waged by anti-government groups, (4) to ensure media cover throughout the nation including border areas, (5) to penetrate international media, (6) to make necessary arrangements to make the State's policies known to all, (7) to improve the media, (8) to comply with guidance of the Head of State, (9) to increase income and minimize expenses, (10) to exercise thrift, and (11) to improve welfare of the staff through agricultural and livestock farming.

And the objectives of the IPRD for 2009-2010 are (1) to organize the people through media for successful implementation of the State’s seven-step Road Map, (2) to ensure sustainable development of self-reliant village libraries, (3) to improve Doh Kyeywa Journal in form and in essence without sacrificing rural life, (4) to organize villages to get at least a newspaper each, (5) to organize villages to get at least a TV each, (6) to organize villages to get at least a radio each, (7) to make at least a two-day or three-day trip to every village and township a year for mobile library, pamphlets, documentary photo exhibitions and educative talks, (8) to improve media of district and township IPRD offices, (9) for district and township IPRD Offices to inform local people the work the government is carrying out regarding political, economic and social affairs of the region concerned, (10) to try to become competent media persons who serve the best national interest, and (11) to improve welfare of the staff through agricultural and livestock farming.

The minister said that IPRD staff are to organize and help rural people regard libraries as monastery and keep a large variety of publications to increase the readership by developing the libraries in accordance with the five norms and make libraries more attractive to local people. In conclusion, the minister called for cooperation to maintain already-achieved development momentum.

The minister, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Hay, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, Managing Director of the Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint and Director-General of IPRD U Chit Naing presented gifts to outstanding staff.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the attendees.—MNA

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**General Secretary of MOC Director-General of SPED U Thaung Hluik presents first prize to Kyaw Myint Khaing in men’s first class (open) event.**—NLM

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**Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the ceremony of 18th Founding Anniversary of IPRD.**—MNA

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**Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prize to Public Good Service Medal winner Staff Officer (Account) U Tin Win of IPRD at 18th Founding Anniversary of IPRD.**—MNA

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**Prizes awarded to winners in Horizon Open Table-Tennis Championship**

YANGON, 29 Jan—
The prize presentation ceremony of the Horizon Open Table-Tennis Championship 2009, jointly organized by Myanmar Table-Tennis Federation and Horizon Sports Academy, took place at the gymnasium of Sports and Physical Education Institute, here, on 23 January.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Hluik of the Sports and Physical Education Department awarded first, second and third prizes to Kyaw Myint Khaing, Kyi Myint and Hla Myo Khaing in the men’s first class (open) event respectively. Principal U Tin Win of SPED (Yangon) gave first, second and third prizes to Kyaw Thu Han, Htin Aung and Myo Myint Naing in the men’s second class (open) event and Swe Swe Han, Su Su Khin and Hla Hla Win in the women’s open event.

Principal Mr Safak Delissmael of Horizon International Education Center, Horizon Sports Academy Director Mr Omer Celik and Executive U Pyi Soe of MTTF presented prizes to the winners in the men’s above-45 event, the men’s under-19 event, the men’s under-16 event, the women’s under-13 event and the men’s under-13 event.

A total of 211 players took part in the competition, sponsored by MK and Jewellery Luck Co Ltd together with co-sponsors Lion King, Stallion Lubricants, Aladdine, Myanmar Book Center, UPG, United Vision and Vista.—NLM
H&T Minister opens new school building in Pyapon

YANGON, 29 Jan—Member of Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing attended the opening of new school building for Basic Education Primary School No 5 donated by Wellwishers U Aung Zaw Myint (Shwe Wah Lin International) and wife Agga Maha Thiri Thuddhamma Theingi Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family at Ward-11 in Pyapon on 25 January.

Ministers Col Zaw Min and Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspect the chosen site for construction of Sai Tin Hydropower Project on Sai Tin Creek.—MNA

Fire stations in Bago Division, Mon State inspected

YANGON, 29 Jan—Director U Zaw Win of Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement visited fire stations in Bago Division and Mon State from 16 to 19 January and gave instructions on fire engines, fire preventive measures and welfare programme for firemen.

Next, the director inspected construction of new building for Kyaihtiyoe Fire Station. —MNA

Myeik District IPRD holds reading session

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—A reading session was held at Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department on 28 January. Daily issued on 22 January, 2009 and those present took part in discussions. —MNA

Beware of Fire

Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin of UMFCCI and officials cordially meet Director for ASEAN Mr Jun Koda of Trade Policy Bureau of Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and party at UMFCCI office on 21 January.—MNA

Myanmar Tennis Championship on 7 Feb

YANGON, 29 Jan—Myanmar Tennis Championship, organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation, will be held at Theinbyu Tennis court, here, from 7 to 11 February.

The tournament includes men’s open singles and doubles, women’s open singles and doubles, men’s singles above 35 and doubles, men’s singles above 45 and doubles, and men’s singles above 55 and doubles and men’s singles above 60 and doubles.

The athletes may enroll in Myanmar Tennis Federation up to 6 February noon (Tel: 372360). —MNA

Transport Minister meets responsible persons of JICA, Daewoo Co

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met resident representative Mr Hideo Miyamoto of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) based in Yangon and party at the meeting hall of the Ministry at 3.30 pm yesterday. They discussed matters related to cooperation between Ministry of Transport and technicians of JICA after storm Nargis.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe also met the responsible person of Daewoo Co at the same venue at 4 p.m the same day.

Also present on the calls were Director-General U Win Pe of Transport Department, General Manager U Cho Than Maung of Myanmar Port Authority, General Manager U Maung Maung Lwin of Inland Water Transport and Head of Office U Win Khant of the Ministry of Transport. —MNA

Ministers look into Sai Tin Hydropower Project

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min and Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected flow of water, condition of flow of water into Sai Tin creek and chosen place for the construction of dam at Sai Tin Hydropower Project, 10 miles east of Buthidaung of Rakhine State on 28 January.

At the briefing hall, Director-General U Win Kyi of Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 briefed the ministers on progress in implementing the project.

At Bandoola hall of Buthidaung, Ministers Col Zaw Min and Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people and made speeches on the occasion. Next, Minister Col Zaw Min presented books and stationary donated by the Ministry of Education and medicines by the Ministry of Health and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, publications donated by the Ministry of Information through officials.

Sai Tin is the new Hydropower Project in Rakhine State and it will produce 70 megawatts. —MNA

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Regional development works in Maungtaw inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye inspected 50 KVA paddy husk-fired power station at Ward 4 in Maungtaw on 21 January and gave necessary instructions.

The commander inspected sunflower model plantation and oil mustard plantation of township PDC at Myinlutt village and groundnut plantation of Farmer U Aung Thein Mya in Nwayayontaung village and mixed cropping of vegetable and sunflower plantation at Myothagyi village-tract on 22 January.

Next, the commander looked into a motorway between Kanyindan and Pantawpyin villages.

Then the commander met with local people at Khayay Myaing Basic Education Primary School and teachers at the meeting hall of Alethankya village Basic Education High School and presented exercise books, food and cash donation.

Afterwards, the commander heard reports on arrangements for construction of concrete culvert at Thawunchaung village presented by officials of township Development Affairs Committee and gave necessary instructions. —MNA

Wetlet Township gets assistance for regional development

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met with local people of Paukan, Htangyi and Butakan villages at Paukan village Basic Education High School (Branch) in Wetlet Township, Sagaing Division on 26 January. The minister presented a set of 21 inches TV for local people, a generator for village BEHS (branch), cash assistance for teachers and exercise books and sports gear to responsible persons and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party met with local people of Nyaungbingyitaw and Kukaung villages at Nyaungbingyitaw Post Primary School in the township and presented K 300,000 for construction of the school, exercise books and sports gear. —MNA

Functions of FDA inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspected sections of Food and Drug Administration on Minkyaung Road in Dagon Township, Yangon, yesterday morning.

In meeting with staff of the FDA, the minister heard reports on progress of the FDA presented by Director (Food/Drug) Dr Kyaw Lin of the Health Department.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on conducting of drug tests meeting set standards, releasing of exact and correct answers and control measure for foods to be free from dangerous substances.

Minister Dr. Kyaw Myint inspects lab sections of Food and Drug Administration. —MNA

Next, the minister met with rectors and heads of department professors from Universities of Medicine from Yangon. Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on providing of lectures to the students to turn them as outstanding surgeons in line with the syllabus of international standard. —MNA

Opportunities to pursue education in Australia

YANGON, 29 Jan—STI Education and the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Institutes of Australia will soon launch services to provide youths with opportunities to attend diploma courses in Australia.

Some of the courses ranging from diploma to degree opened for youths at TAFE Institutes are Maritime, Aviation, Building, Construction, Engineering, Nursing, Aged Care, Dental Technology, Pharmacy, ICT, Music, Media, Fashion, Hairdressing, Design, Accounting, Business, Environment, Horticulture, Agriculture, Laboratory Technology, Sport and other vocational training courses.

In that regard, Australian Education Consultant Ms Jean Braid and some other officials will give talks on Study in Australian Education Open Day at the Park Royal Hotel here at 10 am on 22 January. Interested persons may get registered at STI Education at 377, Shwebontha Street (Upper) or Myanmar InfoTech at Room (7), Building (4) (Ph: 507048, 507151/52, 250056, 700273). They should bring along with them educational qualification certificates to listen to the free talks. —MNA

Myanmar, Pakistan to boost bilateral trade, economic cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint paid a working visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan Additional Foreign Secretary Mr. Masood Khalid.

On 22 January, the deputy minister and the Pakistan Additional Foreign Secretary held cordial discussions on bilateral relations at his office.

Then, the Myanmar delegation led by the deputy minister separately called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Foreign Secretary Mr. Salam Bashir at their offices.

The Myanmar delegation also conferred with Commerce Secretary Mr. Solemam Ghan at his office on 24 January. The frank meeting focused on promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

During the stay, the delegation visited religious and cultural edifices and museums in Islamabad and Lahore.

Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and delegation members arrived back here by air yesterday. —MOFA
FAO delivers bio-digesters to Rakhine State

YANGON, 29 Jan—With the aim of promoting living standards of rural residents, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) delivered bio-digesters from Yangon to Rakhine State on 17 January by ship in order to produce bio-energy out of animals’ waste.

Those bio-digesters will be provided to Maungtaw Township with 35 kits, Buthidaung Township with 25 kits and Rathedaung Township with 15 kits. The bio-digesters can be used in cooking food as well as in generating electric power.

It can also get saving cost and energy and preventing-environmental pollutions and deforestation because of not using wood, coal, fuel and electric power.—MNA

The bio-digesters to be sent to Rakhine State seen at the jetty.—MNA

Kanan Village on Chin mountain range enjoys electric power

(FROM PAGE 16) launched on 3 January 2004; that more than 600 houses used electricity; and that the whole village had access to electricity.

In a bid to build the hydropower plant, the water of the Thwepho (a) Nanpalaw Creek that rises near Shayshweli Village in Tiddim Township, Chin State, is canalled to generate hydropower. The brick canal is six feet wide and over 200 feet long. While I was taking a bath in the canal, water was let to flow into the canal, and it brimmed with irrigated water. Then I started to hear loud sounds of the turbine generating at full capacity.

Khamapat and Kanan villages grow Tamu species pineapple on the commercial scale. Now, a pineapple is priced 300 kyats there. Kanan Village is located in Tamu Township and it is 60 miles from Kalay, and over 20 miles from Tamu. The village sharing the border with India has more than 1000 houses and a population of more than 6000 of various Chin ethnic groups. Previously, it was just a village with only one house belonging to U Sao Thawna.

The main business of the village is agriculture. Villagers grow banana, corn and pineapple on the slopes and sides of mountains. After the harvests of paddy, they grow cold season crops such as beans and pulses, onion, potato and mustard. We got a distinct view of large pineapple fields from Kanan Village hydropower plant. They also breed fish.

Kanan Village has an Affiliated Basic Education Middle School, along with Kananthi primary education school and two other primary schools run by the government.

The village has over 2000 acres of farmlands and 500 of them are put under summer paddy. It has many cottage industries, three video lounges, and a rural dispensary.

Now, a 180 feet long and 30 feet wide two-storey school building is under construction.

An aerial view of Kalay-Tamu Road.

EP No. 2 Minister inspects power station in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, on 24 January, inspected the power station in Sittway, Rakhine State and fulfilled the needs.

Afterwards, the minister and party met with staff at the hall of Rakhine State Electrical Engineer’s office.—MNA

INRD offices inspected in Nyaungdon, Monghkat, Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Jan—Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin met with staff of Immigration and National Registration Department Office in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division on 24 January.

In his meeting, the minister gave instructions on dealing with the public with good attitude and systematic measures to be taken through correct ways.

Next, the minister inspected keeping of files in the record room of the township office.

The following day the minister met with staff of Immigration and National Registration Department Office in Monghkat, Shan State (East). On 26 January, he met with staff of Immigration and National Registration Department Office in Kengtung and heads and officials of Kengtung, Tachileik and Monghkat INRDs.

Next, Head of Shan State INRD U Soe Paing Myint reported on population of the state, races and households, measures for issuing citizenship scrutiny cards and future tasks.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister inspected record rooms at Monghkat and Kengtung INRDs. —MNA
Plums, stone fruit as good as blueberries

COLLEGE STATION, 29 Jan — One relatively inexpensive plum contains about the same amount of antioxidants as a handful of more expensive blueberries, US researchers say.

Dr Luis Cisneros, AgriLife Research food scientist, and Dr David Byrne, AgriLife Research plant breeder, judged more than 100 varieties of plums, peaches and nectarines and found them to match or exceed the much-touted blueberries in antioxidants and phyto-nutrients associated with disease prevention.

"People tend to eat just a few blueberries at a time — a few on the cereal or as an ingredient mixed with lots of sugar," Cisneros said in a statement. "But people will eat a whole plum at once and get the full benefit."

Knowing that we had all these varieties with high levels of antioxidants, then the possibility of preventing these diseases would also be high with their consumption, so we went to the next step — how these compounds could actually inhibit chronic diseases," Cisneros said.

One benefit the team found was that the phytonutrients in plums inhibited in vitro breast cancer growth without adversely affecting normal cell growth, Byrne noted.

Potassium may help lower blood pressure

CHICAGO, 29 Jan — People trying to lower their blood pressure should also boost their intake of potassium, which has the opposite effect to sodium, a US study suggests.

Senior author Dr Paul Whelton, an epidemiologist and president of Loyola University Health System, and colleagues found that the ratio of sodium-to-potassium in subjects’ urine was a much stronger predictor of cardiovascular disease than sodium or potassium alone.

Researchers determined average sodium and potassium intake during two phases of a study known as the Trials of Hypertension Prevention. The researchers collected 24-hour urine samples intermittently during an 18-month period in one trial and during a 36-month period in a second trial.

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Dated: 30 January 2009

Hamas officials signal willingness to negotiate

GAZA CITY, 29 Jan — Senior officials in the Islamic group Hamas are indicating a willingness to negotiate a deal for a long-term truce with Israel as long as the borders of Gaza are opened to the rest of the world.

"We want to be part of the international community," Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad told The Associated Press at the Gaza-Egypt border, where he was coordinating Arab aid shipments. "I think Hamas has no interest now to increase the number of crises in Gaza or to challenge the world."

Hamas is trying hard to flex its muscles in the aftermath of Israel’s punishing onslaught in the Gaza Strip, doling out cash, vowing revenge and declaring victory over Zionist aggression. But AP interviews with Hamad and two other Hamas leaders in the war-ravaged territory they rule suggest some of that might be more bluster than reality — and the group may be ready for some serious deal making.

That raises the question of whether Hamas, which receives much of its funding and weapons from Teheran, can be coaxed out of Iran’s orbit. That question looks less posterous than it did before President Barack Obama began extending olive branches to the Muslim world and Israel’s Gaza offensive reshuffled Middle East politics.

The militants appear to be in the throes of an internal power struggle between hard-liners and pragmatists. Which group comes out on top will likely depend on who is able to garner the most benefits in postwar Gaza.

With hawks urging more violence, the window of opportunity to boost the voices of relative moderation is likely to be short.

587 lbs of pot found at Colo crash site

WALSenburg, 29 Jan — Colorado State Patrol troopers say they found 587 pounds of marijuana in a trailer towing vehicle that hit a guardrail and rolled on Interstate 25 on Wednesday.

The accident occurred shortly before 9 am in the northbound lanes of I-25 near Walsenburg, the State Patrol said in a statement. The investigating officers came across the large cache of marijuana and confiscated it.

The 31-year-old man driving the 2002 Chevrolet Suburban was hospitalized with serious injuries and a 27-year-old female passenger sustained minor injuries, the police said. The pair, whose names were not released, are from New Mexico, police said.

The passenger was arrested and jailed on a felony marijuana possession charge.

Excessive speed may have contributed to the crash, which closed the interstate highway for about two hours, police said.

A man surfs the web at an internet cafe. Growing numbers of American seniors are going online, chipping away at the dominance of 18- to 44-year-olds who comprise half the Web population, according to a study released on Wednesday.—INTERNET

A handout photo shows puppies cloned from fat stem cells from a Beagle donor. A South Korean biotechnology company Thursday claimed a world first, saying it has successfully cloned dogs.—INTERNET

A picture of an advertisement that appeared on Mexican newspaper Correio on 28 Jan, 2009 in Mexico City, depicting a voodoo doll of a US football player. A Mexican sports daily is seeking help for the national soccer team against the United States using voodoo dolls, despite losing support for the stunt from a US-based electronics chain.—INTERNET
Scientists have found mechanisms for how the brain creates short-term and long-term memories.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan — What was the name of that guy with that stuff in that place with those things? Don’t you remember? We all suffer occasional lapses in memory. Some people suffer severe neurological conditions, such as Alzheimer’s, that rob them of their ability to form memories or remember recent events. Three new studies shed light on the way the brain forms, stores and retrieves memories. Experts say they could have implications for people with certain mental disorders.

Newly born brain cells, thousands of which are generated each day, help "time stamp" memories, according to a computer simulation by scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, and the University of Queensland in Australia. The research was published in the journal Nature.

These cells do not record an exact, absolute date — such as 28 January, 2009 — but instead encode memories that occur around the same time similarly. In this way, the mind knows whether a memory happened before, after or alongside something else.

Neuroscientists believe that if the same neurons are active during two events, a memory linking the two may be formed.—INTERNET

Solar cars still a way off

TOKYO, 29 Jan — Toyota’s third-generation Prius, due at dealerships this spring, will have an optional solar panel on its roof. The panel will power a ventilation system that can cool the car without help from the engine, Toyota says.

But it’s a long way from the 2010 Prius to a solar-powered car, experts told. Most agree that there’s not enough space on a production car to get full power from solar panels.

"Being able to power a car entirely with solar energy from solar panels. "Being able to power a car entirely with solar power is a pretty far-reaching goal," said Tony Markel, a senior engineer at the federal government’s National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado.

In the new Prius, the solar panel will provide energy for a ventilation fan that will help cool the parked car on sunny, hot days. The driver can start the fan remotely before stepping into the car.

Once the car is started, the air conditioning won’t need as much energy from a battery to do the rest of the cooling.

"The best thing about using solar is that regardless of what you end up using it for, you’re trying to use it to displace gasoline," added Markel.

Solar Electric Vehicles in California makes a roof-mounted solar panel for a standard Toyota Prius.—INTERNET

FDA says Peanut plant knew product was tainted with salmonella

WASHINGTON, 29 Jan — The maker of peanut butter linked to a nationwide outbreak of salmonella slapped tainted product it knew had tested positive for the bacteria, the Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday.

The FDA report said the Peanut Corporation of America’s own testing program found strains of salmonella 12 times in 2007 and 2008 at its Blakely, Georgia, plant. The problem does not appear to have been resolved. When FDA inspectors visited the plant this month, they reported finding still more salmonella contamination.

According to the inspection report, posted on the FDA’s Website, the "firm’s own internal microbiological testing" found salmonella in peanut paste, peanut butter, peanut meal, peanut granules and oil-roasted, salted peanuts.—INTERNET

Biologists find stem cell-like functions in other types of plant cells

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan— US and Dutch biologists have found that ordinary cells have the ability to replace lost organs in plants — a function previously thought to be limited to stem cells.

The findings, which suggest that some roles of stem cells in organ regeneration may be shared by other types of cells, are published in the latest issue of the journal Nature.

Stem cells have two known fundamental properties: they can renew themselves and they can give rise to specialized cells.

These traits make them the engines for regeneration, creating new cells to replace lost organs and tissues. These phenomena are especially evident in plants, which continually re-grow their branches and roots.

The center of stem cell activity is a stem cell niche, where stem cells are directed to perform these renewal and regeneration functions. However, it’s unclear how significant the stem cell niche is to organogenesis — the building and rebuilding of organs.

The scientists at New York University’s (NYU) Center for Genomics and Systems Biology and Utrecht University in the Netherlands studied the plant Arabidopsis thaliana.

The species is a good candidate for study because researchers have previously identified all of the genes expressed in its individual cells, which allows tracking of cells’ identity as they regenerate.

In the study, the researchers cut off the plant’s root tip, thereby excising the stem cell niche, and examined the return of cell identities by measuring all gene activity.

The results suggested that stem cells returned quite late in regeneration after other cells were already replaced.

The researchers then used mutant plants in which the stem cell niche no longer functions to confirm their initial observations.

Despite the absence of the stem cell niche, the plant’s ordinary cells worked to regenerate all the major tissues constituting the root tip — a process that began hours after it had been removed.—INTERNET

Southern Australia feels the heat

MELBOURNE, 29 Jan — Residents of southern Australia are being warned to expect the worst heatwave in a century.

Emergency services are on high alert and, in the state of Victoria, locals are being urged to prepare bush fire plans in case they need to flee.

Temperatures went up to 45.5C (114F) in Adelaide, its hottest day in 70 years.

In Melbourne, two people died in the searing heat, including a 75-year-old man who collapsed while walking to his car, the AFP news agency said.

Some train and tram services were cancelled as rail lines buckled in the heat. There were also power outages, as people turned on their air-conditioning units to cool down.

The heat wave in Victoria is expected to last several days and be the region’s worst since 1908, according to AFP.

The average temperature in Melbourne at this time of year is 25.8C (78F).

Play at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne was interrupted as temperatures reached 41C (106F) and organizers for the first time enacted their “extreme heat policy”.

Many people are heading to the beach to cool down.—INTERNET

HOW MEMORIES FORM, FADE, AND PERSIST OVER TIME

We all suffer occasional lapses in memory. Some people suffer severe neurological conditions, such as Alzheimer’s, that rob them of their ability to form memories or remember recent events. Three new studies shed light on the way the brain forms, stores and retrieves memories. Experts say they could have implications for people with certain mental disorders.

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SOLAR PRIUS

SOLAR ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN CALIFORNIA MAKE A ROOF-MOUNTED SOLAR PANEL FOR A STANDARD TOYOTA PRIUS.—INTERNET

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BIOLOGISTS FIND STEM CELL-LIKE FUNCTIONS IN OTHER TYPES OF PLANT CELLS

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The center of stem cell activity is a stem cell niche, where stem cells are directed to perform these renewal and regeneration functions. However, it’s unclear how significant the stem cell niche is to organogenesis — the building and rebuilding of organs.

The scientists at New York University’s (NYU) Center for Genomics and Systems Biology and Utrecht University in the Netherlands studied the plant Arabidopsis thaliana.

The species is a good candidate for study because researchers have previously identified all of the genes expressed in its individual cells, which allows tracking of cells’ identity as they regenerate.

In the study, the researchers cut off the plant’s root tip, thereby excising the stem cell niche, and examined the return of cell identities by measuring all gene activity.

The results suggested that stem cells returned quite late in regeneration after other cells were already replaced.

The researchers then used mutant plants in which the stem cell niche no longer functions to confirm their initial observations.

Despite the absence of the stem cell niche, the plant’s ordinary cells worked to regenerate all the major tissues constituting the root tip — a process that began hours after it had been removed.—INTERNET

SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA FEELS THE HEAT

MELBOURNE, 29 Jan — Residents of southern Australia are being warmed to expect the worst heatwave in a century.

Emergency services are on high alert and, in the state of Victoria, locals are being urged to prepare bush fire plans in case they need to flee.

Temperatures went up to 45.5C (114F) in Adelaide, its hottest day in 70 years.

In Melbourne, two people died in the searing heat, including a 75-year-old man who collapsed while walking to his car, the AFP news agency said.

Some train and tram services were cancelled as rail lines buckled in the heat. There were also power outages, as people turned on their air-conditioning units to cool down.

The heat wave in Victoria is expected to last several days and be the region’s worst since 1908, according to AFP.

The average temperature in Melbourne at this time of year is 25.8C (78F).

Play at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne was interrupted as temperatures reached 41C (106F) and organizers for the first time enacted their “extreme heat policy”.

Many people are heading to the beach to cool down.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 30 January, 2009 13

30-1-09 NL 7/28/18, 3:45 PM
Safina into Australian Open final; Serena up next

MELBOURNE, 29 Jan – Serena Williams finally hit form to oust Olympic champion Elena Dementieva and move into her fourth Australian Open final. Now one more Russian, Dinara Safina, stands between Williams and a 10th Grand Slam title.

Williams, who won the Australian title in 2003, 2005 and 2007, played her best match of the tournament in a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Dementieva on Thursday.

“I haven’t moved like that for a while, so I was a little shocked,” said Williams, still leaving room for improvement. “A perfect match for me? Oh, no, no, no. But it was definitely better.”

She’ll get her chance to extend the alternate-year sequence of titles when she meets No 3-ranked Safina, who beat fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the other semifinal.—Internet

Wilkins defends Scolari after Chelsea card controversy

Scolari and Boro assistant Malcolm Crosby were involved in heated exchanges moments before half-time when Crosby took exception to the Brazilian waving an imaginary card from the touchline after Mohamed Shawky handled the ball. Shawky had already been cautioned and Scolari’s actions were perceived to be an attempt to get the Egyptian midfielder dismissed. “It’s a very emotional game,” said Wilkins after Chelsea’s 2-0 victory. “Passions do run high — they run high on their bench, they run high on ours.”

Wilkins said he was all in favour of the Football Association’s recent ‘Respect’ campaign which is designed to reduce such behaviour by management and players.—Internet

Van Persie’s late leveller rescues Arsenal

Arsenal’s Dutch forward Robin Van Persie. Internet

LIVERPOOL, 29 Jan – Robin Van Persie hit a dramatic late equaliser for Arsenal to rescue a 1-1 draw against Everton at Goodison Park on Wednesday.

Until the unexpected finale, it has appeared that the remarkable season being enjoyed by Tim Cahill and Everton would continue as the Australian midfielder headed his side into a deserved lead just after the hour mark.

The three points would have lifted the Merseyside club to within two points of Arsene Wenger’s men as they currently contest fifth place and the UEFA Cup spot available from the Premier League standings.

While Everton can take some solace from the draw, the point did little to boost Arsenal’s hopes of a top four finish.

Van Persie finished from an acute angle on the left side of the Everton area, a sweetly struck effort which whisked past keeper Tim Howard after the Dutchman collected a through ball from Abou Diaby.

That cancelled out Cahill’s 61st minute effort, his fourth goal in the last eight games since being pressed into action as an emergency solo striker, a move forced upon manager David Moyes due to the loss, at various times, of four front line forwards.

Cahill, who now has eight goals for the campaign, has slotted into the unfamiliar role like a natural and any striker in the league would have been proud of his latest finish.—Internet

Mido’s late penalty frustrates Liverpool

WIGAN, 29 Jan – Liverpool’s title challenge suffered another setback on Wednesday as Wigan striker Mido hit a debut penalty to earn a 1-1 draw at the JJB Stadium.

Rafael Benitez’s side looked set for their first Premier League win of 2009 when Yossi Benayoun fired them into a first half lead. But Liverpool’s old problems came back to haunt them as once again they failed to protect a lead.

With seven minutes remaining, Lucas Leiva needlessly fouled Wigan substitute Jason Koumas in the penalty area and Egyptian star Mido, who is on loan from Middlesbrough until the end of the season, sent Jose Reina the wrong way from the penalty.—Internet

Safina downs Zvonareva to make Australian Open final

MELBOURNE, 29 Jan – Russia’s Dinara Safina downed fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) on Thursday to set up an Australian Open final against Serena Williams.

An incredibly focused Safina was too steady for Zvonareva as she powered to the straight sets win in one hour, 45 minutes.

She reached her second Grand Slam final with the victory and has given herself the chance of emulating her brother Marat in winning the Australian Open.

“I remember watching my brother on TV winning the tournament, and if I still watched it today I would have tears in my eyes,” she said.

Bundesliga giants complete strong German Cup quarter-final line-up

BERLIN, 29 Jan – Bayer Leverkusen, Werder Bremen and Wolfsburg booked their places in the quarter-finals of the German Cup on Wednesday, while second-tier Wehen Wiesbaden sprang a surprise with a 1-0 win at first-division Karlsruhe.

They join Hamburg, Schalke04, second-division Mainz and reigning cup holders Bayern Munich in the last eight, which will feature six of the current top 10 from the country’s top division.—Internet

Hammers’ bitten banish memory of Bellamy

LONDON, 29 Jan – West Ham banished the memory of Craig Bellamy as Gianfranco Zola’s strikers scored a 2-0 win over Hull on Wednesday.

David Di Michele and Carlton Cole ensured the loss of Bellamy to Manchester City in a controversial 15 million pounds transfer last week was hardly noticed on the pitch at Upton Park.

Italian forward Di Michele opened the scoring for West Ham midfielder Mark Noble’s first half penalty was brilliantly saved by Matt Duke.—Internet

Rusia’s Dinara Safina , downed fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) on Thursday to set up an Australian Open final against Serena Williams.—Internet

“It’s great that I can follow in his footsteps. He was my idol — he still is my idol — and the fact that I’m doing as well as him is amazing.”

West Ham United’s Italian player David Di Michele (R) celebrates scoring against Hull City with teammate James Collins during their Premier League football match at Upton Park in London. Internet
Indonesia, Malaysia join hands to boost tourism industry

JAKARTA, 29 Jan—Indonesia and Malaysia agreed to cooperate in tourism industry to lessen the deepening impact of the global economic downturn on the sector, ministers of the countries said here Thursday. The global financial crisis is predicted to slump tourist spending and flatten the number of foreign visitors to Indonesia this year, the country’s Tourism Minister Jero Wacik has said.

Wacik on Thursday met with visiting Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Azalina Ohman.

The two countries planned to jointly take steps to boost tourism industry, including cutting some cost of operation by conducting joint promotions and encouraging tourists in their countries to visit each other as well as providing incentive of prices discount for tourists from ASEAN, the two ministers said.

“Basically, we agreed to hold a joint promotion. During the global recession we can cooperate in attracting international tourists and encourage visitors to our countries to visit each other’s,” said Wacik at his office here. Azalina said Malaysia welcomes the initiative of Wacik to provide lower prices for ASEAN tourists.—Internet

Commandos from the “Floreal”, a French frigate, arrest Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden, an army spokesman by the French Navy. The French frigate arrested nine Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden in this on 27 Jan, 2009 photo released to Reuters on 28 Jan, 2009

WEATHER

Thursday, 29 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3˚C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5˚C) above January average temperatures in Rakhine State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (0˚C), Namhsam (2˚C), Hakha and Pinlaung (4˚C) each. Maximum temperature on 28-1-2009 was 92˚F. Minimum temperature on 29-1-2009 was 64˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-1-2009 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 28-1-2009 was (7.4) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 29-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 28-1-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30th January 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-1-2009: Generally fair weather.
Kanan Village on Chin mountain range enjoys electric power

Today, the government is going all out for accomplishment of the projects for development of border areas of national races, while grasping interior areas across the nation.

In order to meet the lofty goal, the government pays serious attention to hydropower projects, large, medium and small, throughout the country for scaling up the exploitation of land resources.

In this regard, local people are innovating new ways on self-reliant basis to enjoy earlier access to electricity.

Inspired by the good news that Kanan Village on Chin mountain range has enjoyed electricity, generating hydroelectricity that is enough to light 800 fluorescent lamps, we made a trip to the village for some facts to compile an article for public knowledge.

Chairman of Kanan Village Peace and Development Council U N Nu Lynn Han Ngar said that Kanan Village hydropower plant was innovated by U Sein Toe of Kalay Industrial Zone, and it is the most powerful and the largest among the power plants he has ever innovated.

We noticed another small-scale hydropower plant constructed in 1994 that can generate hydropower enough to light 500 two-foot fluorescent lamps.

He added that the turbine generator U Sein Toe had made was servicable all year round for 800 fluorescent lamps; that they provided each household with electricity for a two-foot fluorescent lamp from 7 pm to midnight daily, and a house was charged only 540 kyats a month for electric power; that the plant was built at a cost of 3.1 million kyats contributed by 70 wellwishers; that it was (See page 11)