Yeywa Hydropower Project running smoothly

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe inspected Yeywa Hydropower Project in Mandalay Division on 27 February morning.

The commander viewed the installation of 230 KV twin bundle circuit between Yeywa and Belin, and gave instructions on work.

Next, he inspected progress in constructing Kyaukse-Phyaukseikpin-Yeywa Road being undertaken by Public Works. In response to the report on progress of No. (2) inter-district road by officials concerned, the commander gave instructions on tasks.

The commander also inspected construction of Myanmar Elephant, Tiger Head, and AAA cement plants.

Kunchaung Hydropower Plant gaining momentum

While implementing hydropower projects in various regions of the nation to generate more and more electricity, the government is carrying out the tasks of supplying water obtained from the hydropower plants to the arable lands. Kunchaung Hydropower Project is one of the facilities being undertaken by the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1.

Kunchaung Hydropower Project is being implemented on Kun Creek, nine miles southwest of Pyu, Toungoo District in Bago Division. To write byline articles, we, members of the news team visited the site of Kunchaung Hydropower Project. In interviews, Project Assistant Director U Ye Myint Tun, Assistant Engineer U Aung Ko Myint and Deputy Staff Officer U Ye Win Tun (Civil) explained facts about the project and conducted us round the project site.

(See page 7)
**Engage in extended breeding of fresh water fish**

**PERSPECTIVES**

Saturday, 14 March, 2009

Extended breeding of fresh water fish

Engaged in extended breeding of fresh water fish and sea fish is being carried out in addition to engaging in deep-sea fishing so as to satisfy the demand for fish with the world’s growing population.

In Myanmar, rivers and tributaries as well as coastal regions are blessed with fresh water and sea fish and prawns.

The extended breeding of fresh water fish and prawns is ongoing in coastal water and off-shore fishing on a wider scale will surely be commercially beneficial.

At present, there are over 200,000 fish breeding ponds in the nation. Those fish breeding ponds produced over 300 million viss of fish in 2008. Fish breeding is carried out not only in lower Myanmar but also in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions of upper Myanmar.

Fish species such as variety of carp (Laero rohita), white Hamilton’s carp, golden Hamilton’s carp, kind of large carp (Catla Buchananii), Barbus spp and Teelabia are bred most.

Greater efforts are to be made not only to ensure self-sufficiency in fresh water fish but also to export the surplus. Meanwhile, priority is to be given to choosing the sites for better fish breeding ponds, hygiene, and quality of feedstuff while engaging in fish breeding on a commercial scale.

In Myanmar, there are over 3,000 natural ponds and lakes capable of producing over 800,000 tons of fish yearly. Therefore, efforts are to be made for perpetual existence of those fishing resources and for ensuring systematic fishing to protect different species of fish from extinction.

As breeding of fresh water fish and prawn can be of great benefit to fish breeders and to widely engage in breeding of quality fish and prawns with the effective application of modern breeding techniques. Only then, will the nation be able to export Myanmar marine products all the more.

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**Coord meeting of Forestry Ministry held**

**NAV PVT TAW, 13 March—The Ministry of Forestry held the coordination meeting at the assembly hall of Yeza Forest Research Division, here, yesterday morning, with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.**

State and Division level officials of Forest Department, Arid Zone Greening Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise submitted reports on their respective sectors.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA

**Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung makes an address at coordination meeting. FORESTRY**

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**Appointment of Sri Lankan Ambassador agreed on**

**NAV PVT TAW, 14 March—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Newton Gunaratna as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Union of Myanmar.**

Mr. Newton Gunaratna was born in 1940. His career is in media work. He used to work in Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation from 1963 to 1997 and Private Media Corporation from 1997 to 2006 respectively. Since 2006, he is serving as President’s Media Director in Electronic Media. Mr. Newton Gunaratna is married.—MNA

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**KMD to distribute Prolink LCD monitors**

**YANGON, 13 March—A press meeting on distribution of Prolink LCD monitors by KMD Sales & Service Centre, the sole agent of Myanmar, took place at Café Blue in Maha Bandoola Park Street today. First, Business Development Manager Daw Ei Ei Mon of KMD Group of Companies explained facts about Prolink LCD monitors.**

Prolink brand computer and accessories have been distributed since 1991 to meet the needs of customers and ISO 9001 Quality Certificate was awarded in 1999. As an introduction of Prolink LCD monitors on the market, those monitors can be available at K 79,000 each at the summer pre-sales of KMD Sales & Service Centre together with a lucky draw programme at the Strand Hotel on 21 March from 12 noon to 5 pm. For detailed information, contact KMD Sales & Service Centre of No 550-552, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, Ph. 204071, 245180, 384109, 503511, 503522. —MNA

**Book on 2nd Myanmar Emperor published**

**YANGON, 13 March — A book entitled King Tabin Shwehti and King Bayint Naung and the founding of the 2nd Myanmar Emperor comes out today. The book written by Hein Zay is also a compilation of the records of the history of Taungoo, famous achievements of King Tabin Shwehti and King Shin Ye Htut and their conquests in Hanthawaddy, Motama and marching to Rakhine. It costs K 2500 per copy and the book is available at Soe Publishing House, Ph. 5378419; 553757. —MNA**

**500 stimulant tablets seized in Ayethaya**

**YANGON, 13 March—Special Anti-drug Squad in Taunggyi arrested three drug traffickers and seized 500 stimulant tablets bearing WY in Ayethaya Myothit, Taunggyi, on 10 March and seized 500 stimulant tablets from the bag of Myo Zaw Wai. After questioning them, the authorities also arrested Ma Mar Pa Ri, wife of Myo Zaw Wai. The authorities are also taking measures to arrest those related to the case. —MNA**
Terrorism expected to increase as downturn worsens: expert

SINGAPORE, 13 March—A terrorism expert warned that terrorist threat is expected to increase as the global economic crisis deepens, local media reported on Friday.

According to local radio 938LIVE’s report, Dr Rohan Gunaratna, from the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, spoke to reporters ahead of a regional security conference that the current economic crisis could cause more people to have financial problems, hence there will be more resentment towards the government.

“Certainly terrorists will try to exploit the resentment at a global level of the worsening financial crisis, and they will do everything possible to attack,” Rohan was quoted as saying by the report.

He added that terrorist groups would find it easier to recruit and resort to crimes to raise money.

“I believe that unless governments are willing to commit more resources, the threat of terrorism will grow and there will be more attacks,” Rohan said, adding that it is important for governments not to cut down or cut back on security budget and to build law enforcement and intelligence capabilities.—Internet

Japan to join anti-piracy patrols

TOKYO, 13 March—Two Japanese warships are to join an anti-piracy mission off Somalia. The two destroyers are to be set sail on Saturday and are expected to reach the Gulf of Aden in about three weeks.

Their deployment follows a defence ministry decision in January, which required approval by parliament and the prime minister. Japan’s pacifist constitution only allows forces to mount operations only in self-defence, making the decision to deploy so far from home controversial.

The two ships, Sazanami and Samidare, will carry a total of about 400 sailors and coast guard officials. Their initial role is to protect only Japanese shipping.

The public concern has been that Japan must not be drawn into military actions far beyond its own shores and interests. But the mission has been gaining support in recent weeks.—Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,257

WASHINGTON, 13 March—As of Thursday, 12 March, 2009, at least 4,257 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,424 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.—Internet

Seven held over Amsterdam threat

AMSTERDAM, 13 March—Seven people have been arrested in the Netherlands on suspicion of planning to blow up shops in Amsterdam. Police said they had acted on a tip a day earlier from an anonymous caller in Belgium who had warned of attacks intended to cause many casualties.

The suspects, six men and a woman, have joint Dutch and Moroccan citizenship. Earlier on Thursday, the authorities closed a major shopping street in Amsterdam. A concert by the American band The Killers was also cancelled.—Internet

One PKK member killed in clash in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 13 March—One member of the banned Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) was killed in an armed clash in southeastern Turkey Friday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The clash between the PKK militants and the Turkish security forces occurred near Esikhisar village of Nusaybin town of Mardin province, said the report.

It added that the large-scale operation in fighting against the PKK members in the region was continuing.

The PKK took up arms in 1984 to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Some 40,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict.—Internet

Taleban poised at the gates of Kabul

KABUL, 13 March—A top Taleban commander has told CNN his insurgents are poised and ready to attack Kabul and could strike virtually anywhere in the city. It would be tempting to put this down to Taleban propaganda except one of Kabul’s top cops is saying the same thing.

“We are working on a security strategy for the city and if we don’t get it right, they [the Taleban] can attack at any minute, at any hour, any time,” says Commander Mohammed Daud Amin, in charge of securing the Kabul district that includes the Presidential Palace and many government ministries.

Proof of the menacing threat came just last month when eight Taleban fighters, bristling with weapons and suicide vests, burst into three government buildings in the center of Kabul. Police and security forces managed to kill all the insurgents before they could detonate their vests, but 20 people were killed and dozens were wounded.—Internet

Final Gaza toll shows 960 civilians killed

GAZA, 13 March—Israel’s 22-day offensive in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip killed 1,434 people, including 960 civilians, 239 police officers and 235 fighters, a group said on Thursday.

Israel carried out attacks by air, land and sea from 27 December to 18 January in a bid, it said, to force Hamas and other militant Islamist groups to stop firing rockets and mortars at southern Israeli towns across their border.

“The investigations reveal that throughout the course of the assault, Israeli Occupation Forces used excessive, indiscriminate force, in violation of the principle of distinction,” the group said in a report.

The principle of distinction “obliges all parties to the conflict to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants.”—Internet

Hamas members inspect the destroyed offices of the head of the Hamas government in Gaza. Members of the regional Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting at a summit in Teheran have urged the rapid rebuilding of violence-wrecked Afghanistan and the Gaza Strip.—Internet

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Two killed in plane crash in Brazil

BRASILIA, 13 March — A small plane crashed in a shopping mall parking lot in Goiania, in the centre of Brazil, on Thursday, killing two occupants, local fire department said.

The victims were a man, who piloted the plane, and his five-year-old daughter. There were no injuries on the ground.

The aircraft, a PT-prefix VFI, fell at around 18:30 local time (2130 GMT) on about 20 vehicles that were parked in the parking lot. The accident caused a fire, which was later brought under control by fireighters.

The police suspected the accident might have been intentional because the plane made some dangerous maneuvers before it fell down. —Xinhua

EU top business group predicts 4.5 m jobless in 2009

BRUSSELS, 13 March — An European top business group predicted Thursday gloomier economic prospects as 4.5 million people are expected to lose their jobs in the European Union this year.

Business Europe said in its latest economic forecast that the economy in the 16-nation euro zone would shrink by 2.1 percent this year. But last year it expanded 0.8 percent.

The group said that the 27-nation EU would witness an economic contraction of 2.2 percent in 2009.

The forecast was gloomier than the 1.9 percent contraction made by the European Commission in January for the 16-nation euro zone. —Xinhua

World must help Africa reap rewards from economic efforts

UNITED NATIONS, 13 March — Now that African countries have made great strides in adapting to globalization through economic reform, the international community must help them transform their gains into real reductions in poverty, the UN Deputy Secretary-General said.

“African countries have committed themselves to globalization,” Asha-Rose Migiro said Wednesday in her keynote address in Dar es Salaam at a conference entitled, “Changes: Successful Partnerships For Africa’s Growth Challenge,” co-hosted by the government of Tanzania and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). “They have put their macroeconomic houses in order. They have designed not one but two generations of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. The world needs to match these efforts with increased aid and better technical assistance,” Migiro said.

She said prudent policy decisions have played an important role in Africa’s strong performance, even as Africa benefited from the demand for commodities, debt relief and investors’ search for yield. —Xinhua

Obama says he supports free-market economic system

WASHINGTON, 13 March — US President Barack Obama said on Thursday that he supports the free market economic system, a move to seek support for his efforts to revive the ailing economy.

During a meeting with CEOs and other top leaders, Obama said he wants government to right the ship and then “let private enterprise do its magic.”

“At these moments, government has stepped in not to supplant private enterprise, but to catalyze it, to create the conditions for thousands of entrepreneurs and new businesses to adapt and ultimately to thrive,” said the President.

He said his government must move quickly and aggressively on the most immediate threats to the American economy and financial stability — jobs, housing and credit. “And that’s why we’ve already passed a recovery plan that will save and create 3.5 million jobs over the next two years, more than 90 percent of which will be located in the private sector,” he explained.

“That’s why we’ve launched a housing plan that will help responsible homeowners lower their monthly payments, a plan that’s already helping responsible homeowners save money by refinancing their loans,” he added. —Xinhua

First train from Syrian city arrives in Turkey

ANKARA, 13 March — The first train from a Syrian city arrived in Turkey on Thursday night, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The first train between the northeastern Syrian city of Aleppo and Turkey’s southern city of Adana was launched at Turkey’s southern city of Adana on Thursday night, said the report, adding that Fikret Deniz, deputy governor of Adana, welcomed the passengers aboard the train.

Deniz said that Turkey attached great importance to train transportation between Turkey and Syria, adding that the new train service would energize trade and tourism between the two countries. —Xinhua

Brazil’s industrial employment down 1.3% in January

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 March — The industrial employment in Brazil was down 1.3 percent in January over December and a further 2.5 percent down compared to the same period last year, according to a monthly study released on Thursday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

It was the fourth consecutive fall in the industrial employment rate. Since the international financial crisis started escalating, in September, the industrial employment rate fell 3.9 percent. In the Feb 2008 to Jan 2009 period, the industrial employment was up 1.6 percent from the previous 12-month period, the lowest growth rate since the 1.5 percent registered in Sept 2007. —Xinhua

An undated handout image shows a species of rain frog (Pristimantis genus) potentially new to science that was discovered in the hills of Tacarcuna, Colombia. —Xinhua
Study finds “Peking Man” lived in an older, cooler age

BEIJING, 13 March—Scientists using a new radioactive dating method have found that “Peking Man,” or Homo erectus who was believed to live in the Zhokhovian Caves in suburban Beijing 400,000 to 500,000 years ago, is actually 200,000 years older, according to a scientific journal published Thursday.

Guanjun Shen from the Nanjing Normal University led a team of researchers to find that the dating could be plus or minus 80,000 years.

Bush shoe-thrower gets three years in prison

BAGHDAD, 13 March—An Iraqi court sentenced on Thursday an Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at former US President George W Bush to three years in prison.

Defiant Muntadhar al-Zaidi, 30, had pleaded not guilty at the courtroom of the Iraqi Central Criminal Court. Judge Abdul Amir Hassan al-Rubaie asked Zaidi during Thursday’s session “are you innocent?” Zaidi immediately answered. “Yes, your honor, my reaction was natural, just like any Iraqi would have done.”

Reporters and Zaidi’s family members and relatives were then ordered to leave the courtroom for the verdict which sent Zaidi to three years in prison for assaulting visiting foreign leader.

“The sentence for Zaidi is harsh, and we as Zaidi’s defense team will contest the sentence in the appeals court,” Dhiyaa al-Saadi, head of Zaidi’s 25-lawyer defense team, told reporters.—INTERNET

Bridge connecting Hong Kong, Macao and Zhuhai to be built this year

BEIJING, 13 March—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Friday that the construction of the bridge connecting Hong Kong, Macao, and Zhuhai will start before the end of this year.

Wen made the remarks at a press conference after the closing ceremony of the annual session of the National People’s Congress, the top legislative body.

“I want to make it here clear that the financing problem legging the Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao bridge project has already been resolved,” said Wen.—INTERNET

Family meals good for teens

In this image taken from Israel’s Channel 10 television, an injured hiker falls to death from an Israeli military helicopter sent to rescue him from a minefield he accidentally stepped into in northern Israel, on 11 March, 2009.—INTERNET

US Airport runways not safe enough for aircraft accidents

LOS ANGELES, 13 March.—Eleven major airports in the United States, including the Los Angeles International Airport, might fail to meet a 2015 deadline for federal runway safety standards to reduce the risk of aircraft accidents, a report said Wednesday.

Two runways at the Los Angeles Airport are smaller than what federal regulations require for airports since 1988, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing a recent report by the inspector general’s office for the US Department of Transportation.

Other airports must create safety areas that comply with the federal standards where feasible or develop alternatives such as collapsible pavement around runways, according to the newspaper.

After several accidents related to inadequate safety areas at airports, the US Congress in 2005 set a deadline of 2015 for compliance.—MNA/Xinhua

Astronauts return to Int’l Space Station as threat passed

WASHINGTON, 13 March—Astronauts returned to the International Space Station on Thursday after taking refuge in Soyuz capsule in case of a collision with a flying debris cloud, NASA said.

“The debris threat to the International Space Station has passed,” NASA said in a statement posted on its website.

The International Space Station Expedition 18 crew members returned the station to normal operations after being notified of the all clear at 12:45 pm EDT (1645 GMT). They took refuge for 11 minutes in the Soyuz escape capsule.

The crew took precautionary measures due to space debris that has been determined to be within the range where a collision is possible. News of the close approach came too late for flight controllers to coordinate an avoidance maneuver.—INTERNET

40 m foreigners learning Chinese

BEIJING, 13 March—The Chinese language is getting increasingly popular worldwide, with as many as 40 million people now learning it as a second language, a senior education official said.

“The number of people learning Chinese now is quite beyond our expectations,” Xu Lin, director of the Chinese Language Council International, told a press conference yesterday.

According to earlier reports, only about 25 million people were learning the language in 2004.

Xu said the council aimed at opening 100 Confucius Institutes worldwide, jointly with foreign and domestic universities, by 2008.

“But as of this month, 256 Confucius Institutes and 58 Confucius classrooms have been established in 81 countries,” she said.—INTERNET

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Malaysia urged to force big oil to produce biofuel

An oil palm plantation covers a swath of land where a forest once stood in the Miri interior, eastern Malaysian Borneo state of Sarawak in 2007. — Internet

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 March— Malaysia must force major oil firms to produce biofuel if the once-vaunted biodiesel industry is to have any future, industry experts told a conference Thursday.

When crude oil prices rocketed last year, Malaysia and Indonesia, which produce most of the world’s palm oil, heavily promoted their version of biofuel — a mixture of diesel with five percent processed palm oil.

But the industry’s fortunes waned when the price of crude oil tumbled, triggering a crash in the palm oil price which made supply uncertain and jeopardised the long-term contracts needed to develop the biofuel industry.

Malaysia already requires government diesel vehicles to use biofuel, with privately owned diesel vehicles compelled to make the shift by next February. — Internet

Strong earthquake hits offshore south of Panama

PANAMA CITY, 13 March— An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale rocked the seabed 340 km south of Panama on Thursday, local media reported, citing the US Geological Survey.

The quake struck at 2323 GMT and its epicenter was 10 km below the Pacific Ocean, the report said.

No tsunami warnings were issued and there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage in Panama.

The quake was felt in Chiriqui Province of southwestern Panama and in southeastern Costa Rica, but not in Panama City. — Internet

Kangaroo intruder terrorizes sleeping family

An Australian couple thought they were being attacked by an intruder when a kangaroo crashed through their bedroom window and started jumping on them.

“My initial thought, when I was half awake, was it’s a lunatic ninja coming through the window. It seems about as likely as a kangaroo breaking in,” Beat Ettlin told local media. The three-meter (9 feet) kangaroo smashed through the window in Ettlin’s Canberra home Sunday night. While Ettlin and his wife and young daughter took refuge under the blankets, the injured kangaroo jumped on top of them, gouging holes in the furniture and smearing blood all over the walls, said the Australian Associated Press.

The next thing Ettlin heard was his 10-year-old son Leighton screaming from his bed. “There’s a ‘roo in my room!”

Chicken carcass confirmed positive for H5N1 virus in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 13 March—A chicken carcass found in Hong Kong’s Tung Ping Chau was confirmed to be H5N1 positive after a series of laboratory tests, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of Hong Kong (AFCD) said on Thursday.

A spokesman of AFCD said that the carcass was found floating in the sea off Kang Lau Shek, Tung Ping Chau, on 2 March. It was highly decomposed when found and required a series of confirmatory tests for avian influenza. Test results available on Thursday confirmed that the dead bird was H5N1 positive. — Internet

Oldest sea turtle fossil unveiled in Mexico

Paleontologists on Thursday unveiled the oldest fossil remains of a sea turtle that lived 72 million years ago in northern Mexico, the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) said.

“It is the oldest sea turtle of its kind and it belongs to the chelona family. The oldest specimen of this species up to now was 65 million years old and was found in New Jersey, United States,” the INAH said in a statement. The fossils of seven sea turtles were found at different sites in Coahuila, the state that Mexican scientists call “the paradise of paleontology.”

The sea turtle inhabited the northern region in the late Cretaceous period, 72 million years ago, and is the ancestor of the present day green turtle, the institute said. It was one meter (yard) long, 70 centimeters (28 inches) wide and distinguished from other turtles by its rounded head.

Georgia inmate arrested trying to get back in jail

Authorities say they arrested an escaped jail inmate trying to sneak back into the lockdown with cigarettes allegedly stolen from a nearby store. Sheriff Tommy Gregory said on Saturday that 25-year-old Harry Jackson had opened a door to the exercise yard and climbed the outer fence.

Deputies found a jail door unlocked early Saturday and were looking for the inmate. They spotted Jackson trying to come back in and found 14 packs of cigarettes they believe were stolen from a convenience store about a block away. Jackson faces new charges of breaking out of jail and burglary. He was already in jail in Camden County in far southeast Georgia for charges including possession of a controlled substance and violating probation.
Clear sky visibility over land has decreased globally

MARYLAND UNIVERSITY, 13 March — A University of Maryland-led team has compiled the first decades-long database of aerosol measurements over land, making possible new research into how air pollution changes affect climate change.

Using this new database, the researchers show that clear sky visibility over land has decreased globally over the past 30 years, indicative of increases in aerosols, or airborne pollution. Their findings are published in the journal Science.

"Creation of this database is a big step forward for researching long-term changes in air pollution and correlating these with climate change," said Kaicun Wang, assistant research scientist in the University of Maryland's department of geography and lead author of the paper. "And it is the first time we have gotten global long-term aerosol information over land to go with information already available on aerosol measurements over the world's oceans." — Internet

Preserved shark fossil adds evidence to great white's origins

TALLAHASSEE, 13 March — A new University of Florida study could help resolve a long-standing debate in shark paleontology: From which line of species did the modern great white shark evolve?

For the last 150 years, some paleontologists have concluded the great white shark, Carcharodon carcharias, as a smaller relative of the line that produced Carcharodon megalodon, the largest carnivorous fish known. Other paleontologists disagree, arguing the great white shark evolved instead from the broad-toothed mako shark. The second group contends megalodon, which grew to a length of 60 feet, should be the modern great white shark.

A new University of Florida study could help resolve a long-standing debate in shark paleontology: From which line of species did the modern great white shark evolve? A Staff Officer explained to us that water from the power intake structure will be supplied to the power plant through the high stressed steel pipeline for generating electricity. After that, water will be distributed to the power plant for generating electricity with the use of three 20-megawatt generators.

A total of 190 million kilowatt hours generated from the plant will be supplied to the entire nation through the power grid. Thanks to implementation of Kunchaung Hydropower Multi-purpose Project, the people will have the opportunities to get electricity and to extend cultivation of paddy and other crops.

Kunchaung Hydropower Plant gaining momentum

(from page 1)

Kun Creek that originates at Bago mountain range flows into Sittoung River. Kunchaung Hydropower Project was included in the tasks of the United Nations Development Program in 1964. It was one of the multi-purpose projects for development of Sittoung Valley.

Upon completion, the following benefits can be created by Kunchaung Hydropower Project. (1) The electricity generated from the project can be supplied to the entire nation through the national power grid. (2) The project will prevent flooding in some parts of Sittoung Valley. (3) The project can irrigate the farmlands in Sittoung Valley, Kanyutkwin and Penwegen regions for cultivation of mixed crops.

At present, the Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 is building the embankment of the dam, the spillway, the conduit, the water control tower and the water intake structure and laying of pre-stressed steel pipelines. Likewise, the diversion weir and irrigation facilities are under construction.

So far, a total of 4,340 feet long water tunnel on both sides are being dug. Necessary maintenance tasks are being carried out at the already-completed tunnel. The afflux tank is under construction with the use of 38,530 cubic feet of concrete. Moreover, the land preparation is being carried out for construction of the hydropower plant.

The construction of embankment has completed by 95.6 per cent, the spillway 76.6 per cent, the intake structure 95 per cent, the water intake tunnel 57 per cent, the afflux tank 94.8 per cent and the power plant 25 per cent. So far, the whole project has completed by 71 per cent.

The Surge drum is being built at Kunchaung Hydropower Plant.

Industrial pollution clouds an otherwise clear sky.

AIDS vaccine gets closer

STOCKHOLM, 13 March — Rutgers AIDS researchers Gail Ferstandig Arnold and Eddy Arnold may have turned a corner in their search for a HIV vaccine. With the support of the National Institutes of Health, the Arnolds and their team have been able to take a piece of HIV that is involved with helping the virus enter cells, put it on the surface of a common virus enter cells, put it on the surface of a common

Human rhinovirus showing pieces of HIV (red) that stimulate helpful immune responses displayed on the rhinovirus surface, thereby creating a safe mimic of HIV.
Commander inspects soya-bean plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo, on 2 March, visited soya-bean plantation of peasant U Ai Kaung near Wan-kyauk-long village of Fanmin village-tract in Tachilek Township. The commander also inspected broadcast of fertilizer in summer paddy field of U Ai Zhang in Wan-kyauk-long village and cordially greeted the farmers. The commander then looked into upgrading of Hanthawadi Street of Sansai (B) Ward of Tachilek Township.

Cash and kind donated to MFB

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March – A ceremony to donate cash and kind to Myanmar Fire Brigade that will participate in the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade took place here this morning. The ceremony was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, departmental heads and officials. The minister spoke on the occasion and presented K 5 million equipment and foodstuff to officials. — MNA

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe presents cash assistance for members of FSD who will participate in 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade through an official. — MNA

Winners of Photo Contest, best manuscripts of Myawaddy announced

YANGON, 13 March — Winners of Myawaddy Photo Contest and the best manuscripts of the year of Myawaddy and Ngewtaryi magazines were announced today.

Sit Nyein Pan won the first; Dr Win Mar (IM-2) the second and U Soe Lwin (Moe Thauk) the third in the photo contest. Aung Myo Tun (Upper Myanmar), Kyaw Win Hlaing (University of Culture) and Maung Maung Tun won the consolation prizes.

Cartoonist Maung Tin Yu became the best cartoonist of the year of Myawaddy Magazine. Maung Sein Win’s (Padigon) “Shwe Myanmar” poem won the the best poem of the year and Maung Khin Min (Donbyu)’s article won the best article of the year of Myawaddy Magazine.

Integrated farm doing well in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Win Myint attended a ceremony to contribute cash to the funds of the training school for development of national races at the school in Loikaw, Kayah State, on 2 March.

On 3 March, Brig-Gen Win Myint visited the integrated farm at the village of Hmone-pya in Loikaw township and inspected fish and livestock breeding farms and vegetable cultivation and bio-gas-powered plant there and gave instructions to officials concerned. — MNA

Malaysian Rizman leading Myanmar Masters

YANGON, 13 March — The Myanmar Masters 2009 golf tournament, organized by Myanmar PGA, continued at Pun Hlaing Golf Club in Hinthada Township this morning. After the second round, Airil Rizman (Malaysia) stood first with 138 strokes. Soe Kyaw Naing, Zaw Paing Oo, Stewart GINN (Australia) and Bo Bo Lay (Amateur) tied at second position with 142. Yin Aung Latt and Thein Zaw Myint secured the third positions with 144 each.

President of Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation U Teza, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min and U Min Thein, General Secretary U Aung Kyi and executives, responsible persons of Pun Hlaing Golf Club and spectators were present.

Air Bagan Ltd mainly sponsored the tournament together with International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, KBZ Bank, Pun Hlaing Golf Club, Aureum Palace Hotel, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, CEPSA, KM Golf Centre, Srixon and Alpine Purified Drinking Water.

The third round of the tournament continues tomorrow. — MNA

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State’s seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life
3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation
4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

UNHCR High Commissioner concludes visit

YANGON, 13 March—Mr Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner of UNHCR based in Geneva, Switzerland, and Mr Raymond Hall, Regional Coordinator of UNHCR based in Bangkok, Thailand, arrived here by air on 7 March. They visited Bagan-NyaungU on 8 March.

The guests called on Ministers Maj-Gen Maung Oo, U Nyan Win and Col Thein Nyunt in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 March.

On 10 March morning, the guests visited the National Museum in Yangon. In the afternoon, they met the staff of UNHCR from Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships at Sittway Hotel and visited the cultural museum, the library and the view point in Sittway. On 11 March morning, they visited the primary school in Auknkan village in Rethadaung Township built by UNHCR. In the afternoon on the same day, the guests met the resident representatives of UN agencies at UNDP office in Yangon and visited the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Yesterday morning, the guests toured Myeik Township, and in the afternoon met Chairman of Tripartite Core Group Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu and left here by air in the evening. — MNA

Malaysian Rizman (Malaysia) focusing on competition in second round of Myanmar Masters 2009. — MNA
Rail Transportation Ministry holds work coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Ministry of Rail Transportation held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry here, with an opening speech by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, directors-general, managing directors, principal, of Central Institute of Transport and Communications and officials concerned of states/divisions.

At the meeting, the minister stressed the need for minimizing loss and wastage and timely completion of the projects and implementation of more new projects.

Deputy ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than presented reports. And the directors-general, the managing directors and the principal also presented reports on works done by their departments. Afterwards, the minister left necessary instructions.—MNA

41st Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment begins

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—The 41st Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment (41st CCI), hosted by Myanmar, commenced at Golden Palace Hotel in Nayang U on 11 and 12 March

It was attended by officials of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the ASEAN Secretariat, delegates of ASEAN members Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, departmental officials of the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Industry-2.

The participants discussed future tasks to be carried out according to the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement signed by ASEAN Economic Ministers at the 14th ASEAN Summit and promotion of investment between the ASEAN and its partner countries.—MNA

Robot responds to human gestures

BROWN UNIVERSITY, 13 March—Imagine a day when you turn to your own personal robot, give it a task and then sit down and relax, confident that your robot is doing exactly what you wanted it to do.

So far, that autonomous, do-it-all robot is the stuff of science fiction or cartoons like “The Jetsons.” But a Brown University-led robotics team has made an important advance: The group has demonstrated how a robot can follow nonverbal commands from a person in a variety of environments—indoors as well as outside—all without adjusting for lighting.

“We have created a novel system where the robot will follow you at a precise distance, where you don’t need to wear special clothing, you don’t need to be in a special environment, and you don’t need to look backward to track it,” said Chad Jenkins, assistant professor of computer science at Brown University and the team’s leader.

Jenkins will present the achievement at the Human-Robot Interaction conference March 11-13, 2009, in San Diego. A paper accompanying the video also will be presented at the conference.

Matthew Loper, a Brown graduate student, is the lead author on the paper.—Internet

Basic Junior Officer Course concludes

YANGON, 13 March—The Basic Junior Officer Course No. 43 of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) concluded at the parade ground of the institute this morning, with an address by Rector U Win Maung.

It was also attended by pro-rectors, faculty members, trainees and their parents and relatives.—MNA

Rural development tasks to be completed on schedule

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs

Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at his ministry’s coordination meeting. —PBANRDA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—The Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held a Coordination meeting at its assembly hall here on yesterday morning.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt in his speech called for completion on schedule of projects for rural development, construction of inter-district roads and rural housings, and supply of safe water.

Director-General of the Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint, Acting Director-General of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department U Khin Kyuu, Director-General of the Education and Training Department U Than Win, Managing Director of Development Affairs Bank Ltd U Khin Lat and directors of state/division Development Departments presented reports on work progress.

Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe held discussions on engineering work and assessed the reports.

The minister gave concluding remarks.

Up to 10 March 2009 in 2008-2009 fiscal year, township development affairs departments constructed and upgraded 289 miles and one furlong of urban roads and 786 miles of rural roads, totaling 1075 miles and one furlong. The length of the roads constructed by township development affairs departments has surged to 39,050 miles and one furlong from 49,36 miles and two furlongs in 1988. Of the targeted 3048 clean water supply works: 716 in urban and 2332 in rural areas, 3033 have been completed up to now. The rural water supply project for three arid regions—Sagai, Magway and Mandalay divisions was put into action in 2000-2001 financial year, and up to 10 March 2008, the departments completed 12,584 rural water supply facilities.

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Tangyan enjoying fruits of peace, stability and development

The local people are enjoying the comforts of electricity with the use of self-reliant generators and small-scale hydropower generators. We saw the ruins of vans, Sunny Pickups and Hilux Pickups carrying passengers and goods along 83-mile Lashio-Tangyan Road.

In an interview, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Thura explained to the news team that Tangyan Township formed with 10 wards and 49 village-tracts is home of 189,299 people from 16,225 households of 189,299 of land against the target of 3,200 acres, accounting for 104.9 per cent. In 2009, cultivation of summer paddy on 900 acres of land exceeded the target and the township achieved 146.46 per cent of rice sufficiency. In the education sector, the arrangements have been made for undertaking the enrolment of all school going-age children. This year, a total of 275 students are sitting for the matriculation examination for this year, and one of two gained admission to the University of Medicine. This year, K 300,000 was donated to the educational funds through the Township Education Officer with a view to raising the pass rate of the matriculation examination of the students, he said.

In-charge of the communication officer Daw Win May told us that the township communication centre has been upgraded from the magneto facility to the MPT satellite facility for making overseas calls and trunk calls.

The people of Tangyan who had bitter experience of instability and lack of peace in the past can grasp the job opportunity to grow poppy-substitute rubber and tea. They can transport domestic agricultural produce and other products with the use of motorcycles and light trucks. Their activities without fear reflect the prevalence of peace and stability and development of Tangyan.

Fear memories weakened with beta-blocker propranolol

AMSTERDAM, 13 March — A team of Dutch researchers led by Merel Kindt has successfully reduced the fear response. They weakened fear memories in human volunteers by administering the beta-blocker propranolol. Interestingly, the fear response does not return over the course of time.

The findings were published in the March 2009 issue of Nature Neuroscience. Until recently, it was assumed that the fear memory could not be deleted. However, Kindt’s team has demonstrated that changes can indeed be effected in the emotional memory of human beings.

Before fear memories are stored in the long-term memory, there is a temporary labile phase. During this phase, protein synthesis takes place that ‘records’ the memories. The traditional idea was that the memory is established after this phase and can, therefore, no longer be altered. However, this protein synthesis also occurs when memories are retrieved from the memory and so there is once again a labile phase at that moment. The researchers managed to successfully intervene in this phase.

Rendering of active brain. It may be possible to “read” a person’s memories just by looking at brain activity.

'Mind-reading' experiment highlights how brain records memories

LONDON, 13 March — It may be possible to ‘read’ a person’s memories just by looking at brain activity, according to research carried out by Wellcome Trust scientists. In a study published in the journal Current Biology, they show that our memories are recorded in regular patterns, a finding which challenges current scientific thinking. Demis Hassabis and Professor Eleanor Maguire at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging at UCL (University College London) have previously established after this phase and so there is once again a labile phase at that moment. The researchers managed to successfully intervene in this phase.

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Baghdad blasts kill one, injure seven

BAGHDAD, 13 March—A series of bomb attacks in the Iraqi capital on Friday killed one woman and injured seven other people, including four policemen, police said.

The woman died and a man was wounded in the southwestern district of Dora, a former Sunni insurgent stronghold.

Four policemen were wounded by a roadside bomb targeting their patrol in the Al-Jadida neighbourhood. Meanwhile, in the western Al-Khadra district, two civilians were hurt by a bomb planted on the street.

The attacks followed two major bombings this week that left more than 60 people dead and sparked new security worries as US forces prepare to ramp down troop levels in Iraq after six years of occupation.

Despite the recent violence overall security has improved greatly since late 2007.—INTERNET

Four killed in bus accident in S China

ZHAOQING, 13 March—At least four people were killed and 13 injured after a passenger bus plunged from a highway in Guangdong Province Friday, the local police said. The 49-seat bus, carrying 35 people, suddenly fell over from a section of a eight-meter-high expressway in Zhaoqing City.

Four were killed at the site and three suffered serious limb fractures. Ten others sustained minor injuries. All the injured are in stable condition.

An initial investigation blamed the accident on failure to control speed.

Police officers and officials with the local traffic and work safety authorities were inspecting the field investigation at the site.—INTERNET

Foundation of small shopping mall under construction

KAMPALA, 13 March—The foundation of a small shopping mall under construction collapsed on Friday in downtown Kampala, the capital of East African country Uganda.

Local radio KFM reported three people have been found in the ruins and two of them were in serious condition. The total number of people inside the building is still unknown. The reason for the collapse is unclear.—INTERNET

Three teachers kidnapped in S Philippines

MANILA, 13 March—Three teachers were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in a town of Zamboanga Sibugay province Friday afternoon, the regional military spokesperson said.—INTERNET

Fire at Bangladesh’s largest mall kills one

DHAKA (Bangladesh), 13 March—A helicopter plucked survivors from the roof of Bangladesh’s biggest shopping mall Friday as a fire raced through the upper levels of the high-rise complex, killing a security guard and injuring at least 50 other people.

Huge flames shot into the air amid billowing smoke as hundreds of panicked people, many carrying shopping bags, fled Dhaka’s 22-story Bashundhara City mall, which has more than 2,000 stores and cafes.

The blaze broke out on the 18th floor, fire official Selina Chowdhury said. Fifteen fire trucks responded, but the flames still spread quickly. Troops and police joined firefighters in the rescue work, said Abul Kalam Azad, spokesman for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

An air force helicopter rescued three people, including the mall’s chief security officer, from the roof, fire official Mahbubur Rahman said.

Rahman said the blaze, fanned by summer winds, continued burning for more than four hours.—INTERNET

Flames rise out of the burning Bashundhara City mall in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 13 March, 2009. A fire swept through Bangladesh’s largest shopping mall Friday, killing a security guard and sending frightened shoppers fleeing outside, officials said.—INTERNET

Ten drink windshield wiper fluid at Ark day care

LITTLE ROCK (Ark), 13 March—Ten children drank windshield wiper fluid after a staffer at an Arkansas day care mistakenly put the liquid in a refrigerator and served it, hospital officials said Friday. Doctors estimate the children, ages 2 to 7, drank about an ounce of the blue fluid late Thursday afternoon before realizing it tasted wrong, said Laura James, a pediatric pharmacist and toxicologist at Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock. Only one child remained hospitalized Friday morning, after blood samples showed “measurable levels” of methanol, a highly toxic alcohol that can induce comas and cause blindness, officials said.

The day care also provided the fluid for testing. “All we know was that the individual at the day care had recently shopped and had come back to the day care with a lot of different products,” James told The Associated Press.—INTERNET

Britain starts construction of 2010 Shanghai Expo pavilion

BEIJING, 13 March—Britain started construction of its pavilion for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo on Thursday.

The pavilion covers an area of 6,000 square meters. Two gingko trees were planted on Thursday at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The pavilion looks like a box with thousands of spines that hover without visible support above a public square.

The construction will be completed in May 2010. Altogether 185 countries and 46 international organizations have so far committed to participate in the expo. The World Expo 2010, with the theme of “Better City, Better Life,” will be held from May 1 to Oct. 31 next year and is expected to attract 70 million visitors. Xinhua News Agency correspondents reporting from Beijing.

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Search for Canada crash survivors

ST JOHN’S, 13 March—One person has been confirmed dead and one survivor has been found after a helicopter carrying 18 people crashed into the sea off Canada’s east coast.

An intensive air and sea search has been mounted to find other survivors in icy waters approaching 0°C (32F). The S-92 Sikorsky helicopter crashed 87km (54 miles) south-east of St John’s in the province of Newfoundland, after reporting technical problems. It was carrying workers to two oil platforms off Newfoundland’s coast. The helicopter sent out a distress call at 0918 (1148 GMT) in mild weather, said Rick Burt of charter company Cougar Helicopters, the aircraft’s operator.

“The aircraft was on its way out, experienced technical problems, radioed in that it was turning around and that was the last that we had communication,” Mr Burt told a news conference. —Internet

Husband kills wife at veterinary clinic

HAMILTON, 13 March—A South Jersey man with a semi-automatic handgun shot and killed his estranged wife and himself Thursday at the veterinary clinic where she worked, police said. It was the second case of its kind in Hamilton Township near Atlantic City, NJ, in just over a week. The Press of Atlantic City reported.

Employees at the All Paws Veterinary Clinic told investigators that Patrice Clemente, 50, the clinic receptionist, said Thursday morning that her husband, Ronald, 51, had threatened her life, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel said. They told her to call the police, but she did not.

Just over an hour later, at around 10 am, Ronald Clemente arrived at the clinic. He shot his wife in the head. The couple were in the middle of a divorce. Patrice Clemente had three sons and a daughter from previous relationships.

American Airlines to cut 323 attendants

FORTH WORTH, 13 March—Union officials said US air carrier American Airlines told 323 flight attendants their positions had been cut due to shrinking demand for travel.

The airline also this week it may reduce passenger capacity further this year due to light demand. Earlier, American Airlines said it would trim flight schedules 7 percent this year, following an 8 percent reduction in 2008.

Laura Glading, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants said some of the attendants involved in the layoff had just returned to work from previous furloughs.

“This will be most devastating for them,” she said.

“Our heart goes out to our members who will soon be without income, active coverage for health benefits and the career they love,” she said.

Mother of two, jailed over a cup of tea

DUBAI, 13 March—A British mother of two is being held in jail after being found guilty of adultery — for having a cup of tea with a male friend.

Marnie Pearce, 40, had separated from her Egyptian husband Ihab El-Labban when he burst into her Dubai home and found her drinking tea with another man. Mr El-Labban now has custody of their two children — Ziad, 4, and Laith, 7 — when he burst into her Dubai home and found her drinking tea with another man.

He found Ms Pearce guilty of adultery — for having a cup of tea with a male friend.

Ms Pearce, who has lived in Dubai for 15 years, is “a prisoner of conscience”. Mr El-Labban made the claim of adultery — which is a crime in the strict Muslim country — during a custody battle over the boys.

Ms Pearce, who denies a physical relationship with the man, went on the run with the boys but eventually gave herself up and handed the sobbing children over before her case was heard and she was sentenced.

Canadian jailed for plotting UK terror attacks

LONDON, 13 March — A Canadian man was jailed for ten and a half years yesterday for plotting with a group of British Muslims to bomb buildings and natural gas pipes in the UK. Momim Khawaja is the first person to be sentenced under Canadian anti-terrorism laws passed after the 9/11 attacks. He was convicted last year of financing and facilitating terrorism.

A Canadian-born Muslim of Pakistani descent, Khawaja was accused of collaborating with a group of Britons of Pakistani descent in a failed 2004 plan to attack London’s Ministry of Sound nightclub, a shopping centre and electrical and gas facilities.

Meanwhile, Dutch police arrested seven people suspected of preparing a terrorist attack in Amsterdam yesterday, including a relative of one of the attackers who died in the 2004 bombings in Madrid. —Internet

Horse bites off Indonesian man’s testicle, spits it out

JAKARTA, 13 March — An Indonesian villager had to be rushed to hospital after a horse bit off one of his testicles.

The 35-year-old man was unloading sand from a horse-drawn cart at a construction site in Sulawesi earlier this week when the attack occurred, Indonesia’s state-run news agency Antara reported.

A witness said the animal suddenly lunged at the man, sinking its teeth into his crotch.

Shocked bystanders loaded the man into a car to take him to hospital, before one noticed a piece of flesh on the pavement. “Luckily the horse did not chew up or swallow his testicle, but spit it onto the pavement,” the bystander was quoted as saying.

“So I picked it up and brought it to the doctor at the hospital where the victim was being treated.” It was not known whether doctors attempted to sew it back on.

The 70-year-old owner of the horse, Budi, said the animal was trained but sometimes turned wild, and had bitten in the past.

A paleontologist cleans a fossilized bird cranium at Peru’s National History Museum in Lima, on 27 Feb, 2009. The fossil found in Peru is the best-preserved cranium ever found from a pelagornithid, a species believed to have gone extinct some 3 million years ago, according to Rodolfo Salas, head of vertebrate paleontology at Peru’s National History Museum. —INTERNET

YANGON GOLF CLUB

NOTICE

NOTICE is here by given that the Annual General Meeting of the Yangon Golf Club will be held on Friday 27th March, 2009 at Club House Premises at 10.00 hours.

Managing Member
Yagon Glod Club

Drive with care

Internet

INTERNET
A research firm said that worldwide sales of hi-tech “smartphones” grew at their slowest pace yet in the fourth quarter of 2008 as the financial crisis hit demand.—INTERNET

**Chemical traces found in child bath items**

**WASHINGTON, 13 March** — Dozens of top-selling children’s bath products are contaminated with trace amounts of cancer-causing chemicals, a US health advocacy group says.

Officials of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics say it commissioned an independent laboratory to test 48 children’s bath products that documented the widespread presence of both formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane. The chemicals were not disclosed on product labels because contaminants are exempt from labeling laws, officials of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics said.

The findings also include:
- 61 percent of products contained both formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane.
- 82 percent contained formaldehyde at levels from 54 parts per million to 610 ppm.
- 67 percent contained 1,4-dioxane at levels from 0.27 ppm to 35 ppm.

No regulatory standards limit formaldehyde or 1,4-dioxane in personal care products sold in the United States, but formaldehyde is banned from personal care products in Japan and Sweden, while the European Union bans 1,4-dioxane from personal care products and has recalled products found to contain the chemical, campaign officials said.

**Face masks may help prevent heart events**

**EDINBURGH, 13 March** — Exposure to engine pollution results in arterial stiffness, but a face mask reduces exposure to airborne pollution particles, Scottish researchers said. Nicholas Mills of the University of Edinburgh said acute exposure to diesel exhaust is associated with an immediate and transient increase in arterial stiffness.

“This may, in part, explain the increased risk for cardiovascular disease associated with air pollution exposure,” Mills said in a statement.

A group of 12 non-smoking young men cycled on exercise bikes while breathing air that had either been filtered or been contaminated with smoke from a diesel engine. The study, published in the journal Particle and Fibre Toxicology, found that when the subjects were exposed to the polluted air, the blood vessels in their wrists temporarily lost the ability to expand and contract. “Stiff arteries can result in raised blood pressure and reduced blood flow in the heart,” Mills said. “Arterial stiffness plays an important role in hypertension and is an independent predictor of mortality.”—INTERNET

**Hyperbaric treatment effective for autism**

**MELBOURNE, 13 March** — A US controlled trial of hyperbaric treatments for children with autism has determined such treatments can improve the patients’ conditions. Hyperbaric therapy traditionally involves inhaling up to 100 percent oxygen at a pressure greater than 1 atmosphere in a pressurized chamber.

In the first randomized, controlled, double-blind multi-center trial, Dr Dan Rossignol of the International Child Development Resource Center and colleagues from six US centers, studied 62 children ages 2-7 years to assess the efficacy of hyperbaric treatment for children with autism. The children were randomly assigned to either 40 hours of hyperbaric treatment or slightly pressurized room air.

The study determined children with autism in the treatment group had significant improvements in overall functioning, receptive language, social interaction, eye contact and sensory/cognitive awareness compared with children in the non-treatment group.—INTERNET

**Recession causing lots of stress**

**TALLAHASSEE, 13 March** — Employees are more stressed and more strained today, and they aren’t looking to make a move to improve their situation, US researchers said.

“Scared — it’s the one word I would use to describe the mental status of employees these days,” Wayne Hochwarter of Florida State University said in a statement.

“The study shows employees have little confidence that the next work situation will be any more secure than the current one.”

Hochwarter said his study of 300 married, working couples found the financial crisis is affecting people both at work and in their personal lives.

The study also found:
- More than 70 percent of men and women said the recession has significantly increased the stress levels of employees in recent months.
- 55 percent reported that management has grown increasingly demanding during this period.
- More than 65 percent predicted significant job changes to occur within one year, 80 percent of employees reported being nervous about their long-term financial well-being.

— More than 40 percent of employees reported increased incivility such as “backstabbing,” “sucking up” and politicking as a means to stay employed.

— More than 80 percent of both men and women said it is unlikely they would be able to retire when they wanted.—INTERNET

**Scientists move step closer to reading our minds**

**LONDON, 13 March** — Being able to read someone’s mind with a “thought machine” has come a step closer after scientists showed that they could guess a person’s memory simply by looking at the electrical activity of their brain.

Scientists have found that spatial memories can be “read” by a brain scanner so that it is possible to predict automatically where someone imagines themselves to be (the exact location in a maze, for instance) without actually asking them.

“It’s also a small step toward the idea of mind reading, because just by looking at neural activity, we are able to say what someone is thinking,” said Demis Hassabis of University College London (UCL).

It may one day be possible to do the same with other types of memories and thoughts, although the possibility of using a mind-reading machine to solve crimes or to fight terrorism is still a distant prospect, Dr Hassabis said.—INTERNET
Udine give Italy UEFA Cup cheer, champs Zenit lose

Udinese's forward Fabio Quagliarella’s 85th minute opener to give Italy some joy as their sole representatives in Europe following their Champions League wipeout before the quarter-finals for the first time in seven years.

Manchester City put one foot in the last eight with a 2-0 win over Danish side Aalborg at the Antwerp Stadion.

Brazil forward Robinho returned after missing City’s win over Aston Villa last week following a trip home to Brazil for treatment on an ankle injury and on Thursday the player was also named in Brazil’s squad for World Cup action.

The former Chelsea boss allegedly punched a supporter as he left the ground after Wednesday’s 2-0 last 16 second leg loss to Champions League holders Manchester United, reports said.

The alleged assault was quickly denied by Inter Milan and Mourinho, who labelled himself the ‘Special One’ on the eve of taking over at United’s English rivals Chelsea in 2004, was approaching the Inter team bus which was taking the team to the airport when, with celebrating United fans nearby, the alleged incident happened.

Police have now contacted the club and are expected to request closed circuit television footage of the area in question.

Plenty of international flavor so far at Doral

DORAL, March 13 — Jeev Milkha Singh is from India, Retief Goosen, South Africa, Prayad Marksaeng, Thailand, and Phil Mickelson, of course, hail from the United States. Maybe that’s why they call this a World Golf Championship.

Those four players from three continents and four, one home base now is London — shared the lead after Thursday’s first round of the CA Championship, all shooting -under 65s on Doral’s famed Blue Monster. Singh and Goosen got rolling with three straight birdies after the turn. Marksaeng closed his day with three in a row, and Mickelson joined the party by chipping in on his final two holes.

Oh, and Tiger Woods is looming in his first stroke-play event since last year’s stirring U.S. Open victory. A tournament that touts itself as having one of the very best fields in golf is living up to that billing so far.

“IT’s nice to see everyone here,” said South Africa’s Louis Oosthuizen, who shot 67. Just about everyone still has a shot, too. Singh, who has never finished better than a tie for ninth on the PGA Tour, had eight birdies and a bogey. Goosen made just one real mistake all day, a bogey at the par-4 18th, his ninth hole of the opening round.

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Ribery won’t quit Bayern without fight

BERLIN, March 13 — Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge insisted Thursday he will not let French star Franck Ribery leave the German giants without a fight.

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Police say sorry to Nigerian star over gems gaffe

LONDON, March 13 — British police apologised Thursday to Everton footballer Victor Anichebe after he and a friend who were held outside a jewellery shop which officers suspected they planned to raid.

The 20-year-old Nigerian striker and a friend were window shopping in exclusive Knutsford, near Manchester, northwest England on Wednesday when they were stopped by police and Anichebe’s friend was handcuffed.

Police apologised to Everton footballer Victor Anichebe , after he and a friend were held outside a jewellery shop which officers suspected they planned to raid.—INTERNET

Bayern Munich’s Franck Ribery ... fill his contract, which expires in June 2011. “We are not going to let a player like Ribery leave with his contract set to expire in two and a half years,” insisted Rummenigge.—INTERNET

Money makes the difference in Europe, says Galliani

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AC Milan’s president Adriano Galliani said on Thursday that English clubs’ domination in Europe is down to money.

The former Chelsea boss allegedly punched a supporter as he left the ground after Wednesday’s 2-0 last 16 second leg loss to Champions League holders Manchester United, reports said.

The alleged assault was quickly denied by Inter Milan and Mourinho, who labelled himself the ‘Special One’ on the eve of taking over at United’s English rivals Chelsea in 2004, was approaching the Inter team bus which was taking the team to the airport when, with celebrating United fans nearby, the alleged incident happened.

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AC Milan’s president Adriano Galliani:

LONDON, March 13 — Tickets for the first match to be played under the roof at Wimbledon’s centre court sold out five minutes after going on sale here Thursday, ground authorities said.

Husband-and-wife team Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf, both former Wimbledon champions, will be the star attractions when the roof is officially opened on May 17. Kim Clijsters and recently-retired British favourite Tim Henman will also play in the Centre Court Celebration, designed to test the new roof and air management system in front of a 15,000 crowd ahead of this year’s championships.

Ian Ritchie, Chief Executive of the All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon in 2004. —INTERNET

A view of center court at The All England Lawn and Tennis Club in Wimbledon in 2004. —INTERNET

Police probe alleged assault by Mourinho

Inter Milan manager Jose Mourinho during training on Thursday.

“Shortly before midnight (0000GMT) last night a man reported that he had been punched in the face outside Old Trafford,” said a spokeswoman for Greater Manchester Police when asked about the alleged incident involving Mourinho. “We are investigating an allegation of common assault,” she added.

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The former Chelsea boss allegedly punched a supporter as he left the ground after Wednesday’s 2-0 last 16 second leg loss to Champions League holders Manchester United, reports said. The allegation was quickly denied by Inter Milan and Mourinho, who labelled himself the ‘Special One’ on the eve of taking over at United’s English rivals Chelsea in 2004, was approaching the Inter team bus which was taking the team to the airport when, with celebrating United fans nearby, the alleged incident happened.

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Russia foiled 104 terrorist attacks in 2008

MOSCOW, 13 March—A total of 104 terrorist attacks were prevented in Russia last year, the law enforcement department said in a report issued on Wednesday. The planned attacks included those slated for last summer in the southern resort cities of Anapa and Sochi, which will host the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, RIA Novosti news agency cited the Federal Security Service (FSB) report.

Russian special forces also killed 243 militants, including 23 gang leaders, in south Russia where separatist and terrorist activities were frequent last year, said the report on the work of the National Anti-Terrorism Committee in 2008.

The report said that 576 more militants were detained, 640 arms caches and militant bases, containing 1,407 weapons, 2,401 kilogrammes of explosives and 454 pieces of self-made explosive devices, were found. RIA said.—MNA/Xinhua
Tangyan Township, located at an altitude of 3,000 feet in Shan State (North), is 83 miles from Lashio. In the past, the region was controlled by insurgents. Thus, local people were in a state of panic in carrying out tasks of social, economic, education and health sectors. They faced poor transportation as well as threats from robbers.

After 1988, the arms for peace programme was undertaken in the time of the Tatmadaw Government. Afterwards, Tangyan Township of Lashio District in Shan State (North) enjoyed peace and stability and gained development momentum. On 1 March, the news team of the Myanmar Alin Daily together with Shan State (North) Manager U Win Hlaing Oo of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise and Secretary U Thein Han of Lashio Township Writers and Journalists Association, arrived in Tangyan under the arrangement of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council.

We proceeded to Tangyan from the junction of Lashio-Mandalay Road, nine miles from Lashio, by passing through over 20 villages. On the way, we saw neat and tidy housings and buildings, bridges across creeks and thriving paddy, maize, sugarcane, pigeon pea, oil mustard, coffee, tea and beans and pulses plantations.

We were in a van on the way to Tangyan along the mountain road. All the villages we passed are facilitated with Basic Education Primary Schools.

(See page 10)

Photo shows developing Tangyan with lush and green environment in Shan State (North).

Human-generated sounds may be killing fish

ScienceDaily, 13 March — Anthropogenic, or human generated, sounds have the potential to significantly affect the lives of aquatic animals - from the individual animal's well-being, right through to its reproduction, migration and even survival of the species.

According to a new study marine animals could suffer detrimental effects ranging from a loss of hearing to increased stressed levels as a result of environmental noise - in ways not dissimilar to humans and land animals. The study also describes some recent well-controlled experimental studies while highlighting areas for future study.

"Human generated sounds in the marine environment may result in only small shifts in behavior for some animals, but immediate death in others. With the vast increase in production of sound in the marine environment due to human activity such as oil exploration, shipping and construction, the effect of human-generated sounds on the aquatic life becomes a growing issue" said Dr. Arthur Popper from the University of Maryland, USA.

Marine animals use sounds to communicate and to glean information about their environment. Unlike the "visual scene" developed by the animal's sense of sight, the "auditory scene" derived from sounds provides marine animals with a three dimensional view of the world and extends far beyond the visual scene.—Internet

Bercks and Ronne back in training

MILAN, 13 March — AC Milan have received a boost ahead of Sunday's trip to Siena after David Beckham and Ronaldinho both returned to training. Beckham picked up an ankle injury in training on Tuesday while Ronaldinho has been sidelined since the Milan derby on February 15.

The club confirmed today that the pair completed a full session on Thursday and will be available to coach Carlo Ancelotti for this weekend.

Warning for untimely rain

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued an announcement today that according to the satellite weather observation at 3.30 p.m. MST today, the isolated heavy rain will be scattered in Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions from within 48 hours beginning this evening.—MNA

Application Development Contest on 27 March

YANGON, 13 March — Myanmar Computer Professionals Association will organize the Application Development Contest at e-Learning Centre of the Myanmar Computer Federation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 27 March.

Two contestants of each team may take part in the contest to develop a part of software application. The contestants may develop the software by using any programming language on any platform through Window Application or Web. The winners will be awarded K 500,000 for the first prize, K 300,000 for the second and K 200,000 for the third.

Those wishing to take part in the contest may enlist at MCPA, not later than 25 March. For further information, contact MCPA Room-4, Building-4, by dialing 652276.—MNA