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Tuesday, 24 January, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects progress of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project and regional development of Taninthayi Region

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

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



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects scale model of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project.—MNA

his tour.

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

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

The Vice-President coordinated essen-

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

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

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

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

(See page 8)



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo speaking with local residents at Laeshaung village monastery in Yebyu.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 January, 2012

When breeze comes...

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

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

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

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

Dry season raises the possibility of fire outbreak. The fire outbreaks started from tossed-out cigars and dying fire are very common in villages.

Candles, lamps and oil on pans cause fire outbreaks. Electric shocks, candles and mosquito coils are sources of fire hazard in urban areas as dwellers use them while sleeping.

Urbanites should prevent against fire by caring electric wires, restraining themselves from sleeping while lighting up candles and mosquito coils, using gas containers systematically, and keeping fire extinguishers in every house.

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

Forever starts Taste of TV course

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

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

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

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

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

MNA

Lashio University organizes track and field contests

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

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

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

Application for registration as political party granted

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Union Election Commission issued Announcement No. 7/2012 today.
The translation of the announcement is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. 7/2012

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

Myanmar National Congress Party granted to register as political party

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

Sd/
Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

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

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 10th-mile hill nursery of Myanmar Agriculture Service at the entrance to Bago yesterday morning.

He then visited the construction site of training school being built jointly by Myanmar Industrial Crops Development Enterprise and Yunnan Agricultural Organization of China and called for completion of the school ahead of the open season.

The Union minister then inspected the condition of

Minywa sluice gate at mile post No. 14/2 on Bago-Sittoung Tunnel in Minywa Village of Thanatpin Township and heard reports on preventive measures against annual floods in Bago Region presented by personnel.

The Union Minister explained cultivation of Palethwe hybrid rice plants nationwide and GAP system cultivation methods. He inspected digging of Minywa-Paingkyone tunnel and met farmers at Kadote Phayagyi Village in DaikU Township.

MNA

Labour Ministry closely cooperating with ILO on forced labour issues

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

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

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



Deputy Labour Minister U Myint Thein and ILO Executive Director Mr Guy Ryder sign agreement to extend supplementary understanding on eradication of forced labour for further one year.—MNA

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

LOCAL SPORTS

Traditional cane-ball contest concludes

TATKON, 23 Jan—Tatkon Township Cane-ball Enthusiasts Group and Township Cane-ball Subcommittee jointly organized the traditional cane-ball contest in Bayintnaung Ward on 8 January.

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

Myanma Alin

Invitational football tourney winds up

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

The second prize went to Nathagon Village-B and the first prize, to Thabyechaing Village. The football tournament organizing committee awarded the winners. Altogether 16 village teams participated in the tournament.—Township IPRD



Brits warned as Nigeria death toll hits 165

LONDON, 23 Jan — Britons are being warned against travelling to parts of Nigeria as the death toll from a series of terror attacks reached 165. The warning came as another wave of attacks swept Nigeria today, killing at least eleven people. Radical group Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for

bombings in the northern city of Kano that killed at least 165 people on Friday.

At least 11 further people died in an attack in Nigeria's northern Bauchi State yesterday, less than 48 hours after Friday's attacks in Kano, while several other attacks throughout the country claimed no casualties. This

afternoon President Goodluck Jonathan visited Kano to see the destruction wreaked by Boko Haram for himself. Witnesses have described seeing dozens of bodies piled up outside the main morgue after attacks at police stations, state buildings and on streets, beginning on Friday afternoon.

Authorities enforced a 24-hour curfew in the city, with many people remaining home as soldiers and police patrolled the streets and set up roadblocks. The Foreign Office updated its travel advice for the African country, advising against travel to Kano. The FCO website said: "We advise against all travel to Kano



People run for safety after the bomb blasts in Kano, Nigeria, on 20 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Taleban releases horrific video of executions of 15 Pakistani soldiers

ISLAMABAD, 23 Jan — Blindfolded and handcuffed to each other on a barren hilltop, Pakistani soldiers wait for death at the hands of a merciless Taleban fighter. Fifteen men were lined up for execution, the chilling scene captured on film by the Taleban for a video released as a warning to the Pakistani army operating near the Afghan border. The Frontier Corps soldiers were seized last month in what the Taleban said was an operation to avenge the deaths of militants

in Pakistan.

The video shows one of the killers from the Pakistan Taleban, or TTP, holding an AK-47 rifle and speaking with fury about revenge. "Twelve of our comrades were besieged and mercilessly martyred in the Khyber Agency [area]," said the militant. "Our pious women were also targeted. To avenge those comrades, we will kill these men. We warn the government of Pakistan that if the killing of our friends is not halted, this will be the fate of you all."

One of the abducted soldiers, sitting alongside his comrades with their arms folded and legs crossed in front of Taleban banners, describes on the video how dozens of militants stormed their fort in the north-western Tank District of Pakistan. "They attacked us with rockets, killed a sentry," he said. "One ran away. The Taleban entered the fort and captured us with our weapons. They tied our hands, put us in a Datsun and took us away."

Internet



The USS Abraham Lincoln and the USS John Stennis are in the Gulf. The Lincoln moved through the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. INTERNET

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

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — Flanked by British and French ships, the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier moved through the Strait of Hormuz without incident on Sunday despite recent threats from Iran. The US Naval Forces Central Command said in a statement that the Lincoln "completed a regular and routine transit of the strait ... to conduct maritime security operations." The Lincoln is in the region with the USS Carl Vinson, giving the US Navy its standard two-carrier presence there.

A British defence ministry spokesman, who was not named per policy, said on Sunday that the "HMS

Argyll and a French vessel joined a US carrier group" going through the strait "to underline the unwavering international commitment to maintaining rights of passage under international law." "Britain maintains a constant presence in the region as part of our enduring contribution to Gulf security," the spokesman said. Several weeks ago, as the USS John Stennis left the Persian Gulf and headed back to the western Pacific, Iranian officials warned the United States not to send in another carrier. "We have always stated that there is no need for the forces belonging to the countries beyond this region to have a presence in the Persian Gulf," Brig Gen

Ahmad Vahidi said in early January, according to the semi-official Fars News Agency. "Their presence does nothing but create mayhem, and we never wanted them to be present in the Persian Gulf." Teheran has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, the only outlet to-and-from the Persian Gulf between Iran and the United Arab Emirates and Oman, as it faces increased scrutiny over its nuclear programme and possible sanctions on its oil exports.

The critical shipping lane had 17 million barrels of oil per day passing through in 2011, according to the US Energy Information Agency. Internet



The destroyed police headquarters in Kano, on 21 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

whilst the curfew remains in force and for those in Kano to remain vigilant and to exercise caution.

"DFID (Department for International Development) and British Council have limited their operations in Kano whilst the curfew is in place." An official at the city's main morgue said dead

bodies had been arriving since Friday night. Soldiers and police officers swarmed throughout the city as the death toll rose. Boko Haram is campaigning to implement strict Sharia law across Nigeria, a multi-ethnic nation of more than 160 million people.

Internet

Plane crashes in New Zealand, killing two aboard

WELLINGTON, 23 Jan — A small plane has crashed in a New Zealand park, killing both people aboard. Authorities say the two-seater Yak aircraft fell into a playing field on Monday in the town of Feilding on the country's North Island.

Police spokeswoman Kim Perks says the plane left from an airfield a few miles (kilometres) from the crash site and was flying for about 25 minutes before it went down. Perks says witnesses saw the private plane performing acrobatics before the crash. Perks says the two men believed to have been aboard are widely known in the region. Authorities are not releasing their names pending notification of their next of kin. Investigators were travelling to the scene of the crash.—Internet



Disturbing footage: The paramilitary troops were abducted by Pakistan's Taleban on 23 December and in the video, they are shown to be handcuffed, blindfolded and lined up, before being shot at point-blank range.—INTERNET

Afghan government hints at Taleban talks

KABUL, 23 Jan — The Afghan government of Hamid Karzai signaled willingness to join in with an American-led drive towards peace talks, according to a top official on Sunday, removing a potential hurdle blocking US efforts to push a peace process forward in the unstable country. "Peace is our highest top priority and we support every

effort that would lead to peace," Deputy Foreign Minister Jawed Ludin said, indicating that Kabul backs a plan for the Taleban establish an office in Qatar to facilitate talks.

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



Marc Grossman, US special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, is in Kabul to talk with Afghan president Hamid Karzai.—INTERNET

"If the United States decides to transfer these detainees to Qatar to the extent that these people will be reunited with their families, the Afghan government will support that," Ludin said. Marc Grossman, the US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, said Sunday that "no decisions have been made" about releasing detainees. And he said the Taleban needed to make "a clear statement ... against international terrorism and in support of a peace process to end the armed conflict in Afghanistan" before it could open an office in Qatar, the Gulf state playing an increasing role in international diplomacy. Grossman is due to travel to Qatar on Monday.—Internet

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

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

Police arrived at the scene in Waltham Forest shortly afterward, but the dog —

described as a black and white Bull Terrier-type — and its owner had gone. A 56-year-old man has since handed himself in and is being questioned by police. Scotland Yard said he walked into a police station and was arrested on suspicion of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place. Detective Sergeant Stuart Cheek of London's Metropolitan Police said, "This was an appalling incident that left a young child with serious injuries, which are likely to scar her for life."—Internet

AIDS killed 28,000 in China in 2011, study says

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

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

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

percentage points compared to 2009.

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

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

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



Chinese citizens take part in an AIDS awareness programme to mark World AIDS Day in Chongqing last December. AIDS killed 28,000 people in China last year, and another 48,000 new infections from the HIV virus were discovered in the country, according to an official report.—*INTERNET*

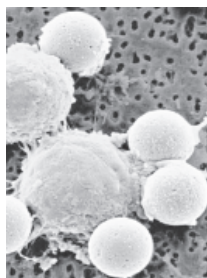
A new way to beat blood cancer?

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—Scientists claim to have found a new way to beat severe blood cancer by removing a pro-survival protein from acute myeloid leukaemia cells. A team at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research says it has discovered that acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), an aggressive form of blood cancer with poor prognosis, is susceptible to medications that target Mcl-1 protein, the 'Genes & Development' journal reported. AML is the most common type of acute leukaemia. Some forms of AML occur in children, while other forms are more prevalent in adults over the age of 60. Of patients with the most severe forms of AML, fewer than

one in six survives for five years after diagnosis.

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

"The gene for Mcl-1 was first discovered in AML cells, but until now it had not been realised that the Mcl-1 protein was critical for AML cells to live. What we have shown is that without Mcl-1, AML cells rapidly die," Dr Stefan Glaser, who led the team, said. The scientists say that in the future, new treatments for AML will be developed that work by specifically blocking



This microscopy image shows immune system T-cells (centre) binding to beads which cause the cells to divide. The beads, depicted in yellow, are later removed, leaving pure T-cells which are then ready for infusion to the cancer patients.

INTERNET

Mcl-1. Glaser said: "We found that many types of AML cells were very dependent on Mcl-1 to survive.

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

"Importantly, non-cancerous blood cells were much less susceptible to dying when Mcl-1 was depleted.

Internet



Genes determine 40% of lifetime intelligence: Australian scientists

CANBERRA, 23 Jan—Australian scientists on Saturday said they discovered genes are responsible for 40 percent of our lifetime intelligence with the other 60 percent being determined by our environment.

The research was carried out by scientists of University of Queensland of Australia and was led by geneticist Professor Peter Visscher. The environment a child grows up

in (nutrition, schooling, parent's education) impacts on intelligence, but observational tests on twins suggested that we inherit around half of our intelligence.

But until now, there has been little understanding of the genetic contribution to cognitive aging, or how smart we stay as we get older. According to Visscher, the more intelligent you are the longer you live, the more

healthy you are, and the higher your income is later in life. So it is no wonder there is so much interest in understanding what determines intelligence.

Visscher and colleagues studied a unique group of nearly 2000 unrelated people in Scotland who were tested for their intelligence, using the same test, at age 11 and again at age 65, 70 or 79 years. Most people who began life with

above average intelligence were above average when they were older, while others who had below average intelligence tended to stay below average.

However, the researchers did note that there were some whose intelligence improved and some whose got worse, relative to others.

They also took genetic samples and quantified the role genes play in determining how much change there is in intelligence as we age.

Xinhua

Euro zone finance ministers to rule on glacial Greek debt talks

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

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

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

But some details of the debt restructuring, which will involve swapping existing Greek bonds for new, longer-term bonds to bring Greek debt down to a more sustainable 120

percent of GDP in 2020 from 160 percent now, are unresolved.

"What I am confident of is that our offer, that was delivered to the prime minister, is the maximum offer consistent with a voluntary PSI deal," Institute of International Finance chief Charles Dallara, who is negotiating on behalf of banks

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

Reuters



Greece's Prime Minister Lucas Papademos (L) escorts Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos after a meeting in Athens on 12 January, 2012.—*INTERNET*

and insurers holding Greek debt, told Antenna TV on Sunday.

"We are at a crossroads



Apple 2012: Smooth sailing, for the most part

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

But its very success - with the market-leading iPad and the voice-enabled iPhone 4S - is luring cheaper rivals to the surface.

Google Inc's Android, launched a few years ago and taking aim squarely at the high-end iOS, continues to attract cellphone makers. Amazon.com Inc's Kindle Fire, half the cost of the iPad, is expected to have chipped



The company's logo is seen on the Apple store in Washington on 6 Oct, 2011.—*INTERNET*

away at the lower end of the tablet market.

Finally, though many on Wall Street, betting that an iTV and 4G iPhones and iPads will again pack its stores, continue to bank on a share-

price climb to as high as \$700, some begin to question the sustainability of Apple's torrid growth pace.

Apple tacked on \$43 billion to its top line in fiscal 2011, lifting it to \$108.25 billion—a 65 percent increase from the previous year.

Barry Jaruzelski, a consumer hardware business expert and partner at consulting firm Booz & Co, said to sustain that is effectively to conjure a Fortune 500 company out of thin air—year after year.

Reuters

Asian stocks muted as Greece debt talks drag on

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

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

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average was down less than 0.1 percent at 8,763.22 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.3 percent to 4,225.10. New Zealand's

benchmark added 0.6 percent to 3,295.02 and India's Sensex inched up 0.1 percent to 16,763.22. Thailand's SET index rose 0.6 percent to 1,065.07.

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

Over the weekend, the representative of Greece's private creditors said the talks are continuing even after his unexpected departure from the country.—*Internet*

Global warming could be similar across ecosystems

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

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

The streams provided them with a

unique environment to isolate the effects of temperature from other confounding variables found in nature, the journal *Global Change Biology* reports.

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

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

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



Tulip-shaped creature 'discovered in Canada'

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

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

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

The stem ends with a small disc which

anchored the animal to seafloor. It lived in large clusters, as indicated by slabs containing over 65 individual specimens, say the scientists.—*Internet*

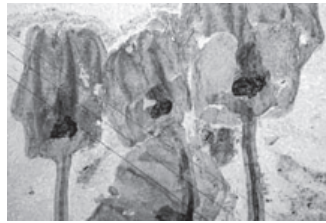
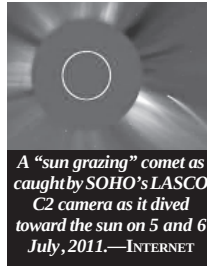


Photo shows a bizarre tulip-shaped creature — about the length of a dinner knife — that lived in the ocean over 500 million years ago.—*Internet*



A "sun grazing" comet as caught by SOHO's LASCO C2 camera as it dived toward the sun on 5 and 6 July, 2011.—*Internet*

NASA captures comet's crash into Sun

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

In an article published in this month's *Science*, the agency said its Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded Comet C/2011 N3 nearing the sun and burning to nothing over a 20-minute span in July.

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



Humans still threaten California condors

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

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

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

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

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



The San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park celebrates the hatching of the first California condor of the season.

Internet

New gesture and voice-controlled TVs may outdo remote controls

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

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

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

"Hi TV," she said, issuing the verbal command for the

TV to turn on.

"Channel 1034." The TV switched to a news channel.

"Web browser," she continued, and the Yahoo home page popped up.

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

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

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

China rolls out low-cost maglev trains

BEIJING, 23 Jan.—A locomotive producer in central China's Hunan Province on Friday rolled out a low-cost magnetically levitated (maglev) train that is more environmental-friendly than conventional ones.

The three-carriage train is designed to run at a maximum speed of 100 km per hour and carry 600 passengers, said Xu Zongxiang, general manager of Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co Ltd of China South Locomotive and Rolling Stock Corporation

(CSR).

Xu said the new train was much quieter than conventional ones. While a conventional train moves forward by using friction between its wheels and the railway tracks, the maglev train replaces wheels by electromagnets and levitates on the guideway. According to Xu, his company's has minimized the risk of the new maglev train derailing or overturning. "It's ideal for mass transportation, as it is quiet and environmental-friendly. Its manufacturing cost is about 75 percent of a

conventional light-rail train," said Xu. The maglev train has a minimum turning radius of 50

metres and can easily run in residential communities or on hilly slopes.—*Xinhua*



A low-cost maglev train rolls off the assembly line on 20 January, 2012 in Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan Province.—*XINHUA*

Now, hi-tech baby stroller that charges iPhone

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

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

studded with features like power folding with the push of a button, daytime running lights and special pathway lights to help people see at night.

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

The stroller is priced at 849 dollars, which may sound costly to normal people, but is in fact comfortably within the range of higher-end strollers.

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

Internet

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

BEIJING, 23 Jan—A man died in southern China on Sunday from the H5N1 bird flu virus, the Health Ministry reported. It was China's second such death in less than a month. The latest victim, an unidentified 39-year-old, fell ill on 6 January and was admitted to a hospital in Guizhou Province the same day, the Health Ministry said in a statement reported by *Xinhua*, the official news

agency. A 39-year-old bus driver in Shenzhen, a city in Guangdong Province near Hong Kong, died of the disease on 31 December. Both deaths were notable because neither victim reported any contact with birds in the month preceding his illness. The virus is known to spread through contact with infected birds, eggs or bird feces, but experts said a pandemic could occur were it to mutate into a

form that was more easily spread.

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

LAPD tries new policies to cut costly, dangerous traffic crashes

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

Despite the training cops receive in how to speed safely through traffic, they are an accident-prone bunch. Police were involved in traffic accidents more than 1,250 times in the last three years—an average of about one a day. Most of the crashes were minor, but some resulted in life-threatening injuries or totaled police cars, or were the result of the officer violating traffic laws, according to LAPD records. In at least two incidents, the driver of another car was killed.

And at a time when the Los Angeles Police Department is trying to stem the steady stream of lawsuits

filed against officers that cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year, traffic accidents remain a significant and costly obstacle. They represent nearly one out of every four lawsuits filed

against the department. The city has paid nearly \$24 million in settlements or verdicts in about 400 LAPD traffic-related lawsuits over the last nine years and must contend with dozens more



An LAPD cruiser was one of hundreds of police-involved crashes last year. In fact, the LAPD's numbers average out to about one crash a day. They're costly for city—and in a few cases have cost innocent people their lives.—INTERNET

Gunmen abduct 'American' in central Somalia

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

The man's car was surrounded shortly after he left the airport in the town of Galkayo and he was forced into another vehicle, police officer Abdi Hassan Nur, who witnessed the incident, told AP.

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

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

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

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

It has been reported that they are being held in Hobyo, a port used by Somali pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden.

Kidnapping for ransom is common in Somalia and at least four aid workers, a French military official, a British tourist taken from Kenya and hundreds of sailors are being held captive. Galmudug's administration is allied to the UN-backed transitional government in Mogadishu, which is battling the powerful al Shabab militia, which controls large parts of south and central Somalia.

Internet

Kidnapping for ransom has become common in Somalia in recent years.
INTERNET



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

LONDON, 23 Jan—Two wanted Al-Qaeda leaders killed by US drone attacks are believed to have travelled from Britain to launch terrorist attacks against the West. One, Aslam Awan, studied in Manchester but joined an Islamic terror cell then went to Afghanistan to fight coalition forces. By contrast, his brothers remain in Britain pursuing respectable careers—they are a surgeon, a GP, a



On guard: Plainclothes Pakistani security men stand outside the family house of al-Qaeda militant Aslam Awan.—INTERNET

cases that remain unresolved, city records show. In all but a few of the closed cases, city officials opted to pay a negotiated settlement instead of taking their chances at a trial—a strong indication that the officers were in the wrong.

"It is a top priority for us to get a comprehensive risk management plan in place, and addressing traffic accidents has to be a big part of that," said Richard Drooyan, president of the Los Angeles Police Commission, the civilian board that sets policy for the LAPD.

"We need to look at what kind of training, supervision and policies could be implemented to prevent these accidents."

Internet

Two fishermen found dead in Nova Scotia

PARRSBORO, 23 Jan—Two fishermen have been found dead in Nova Scotia, Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Sunday. Authorities discovered the body of one man Saturday morning, on the shore near Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported. Two all-terrain vehicles were found mid-afternoon Saturday. The second body was found nearby, police said.

"We regret to inform people that the second male was also found deceased," said RCMP Constable Dal Hutchinson. The two men, who were pulling trailers with the ATVs, were checking on lobster traps in the Minas Basin during low tide Friday. They were reported missing around 1 am Saturday. Hutchinson said about 40 people helped search for the two men in cold and windy weather.

"We want to thank ground search and rescue from Springhill and Pugwash, and the Parrsboro fire department for assistance," Hutchinson said.—*Internet*

KOLKATA, 23 Jan—At least 26 infants have died in the past five days in a state-run hospital in India's West Bengal state, authorities said on Sunday. The hospital in Malda, about 340km north of Kolkata, has come under attack for negligence while state health officials claim the babies were underweight and several of them were "terminally ill".

"Two more babies died on Sunday taking the death toll to 26."

Most of them were underweight and had been suffering from birth asphyxia," West Bengal health services director Biswa Ranjan Satpathi told AFP by telephone. Many of

the terminally ill babies were referred to the Malda hospital from adjacent districts and the neighbouring states of Bihar and Jharkhand, Satpathi added.

Satpathi said the hospital has 60 beds for infants—barely enough to cope with the surge in patients. "More than 14 000 babies were admitted to the hospital over the past three months. The hospital does not have the infrastructure to offer treatment to so many infants," he said. In June, at least 17 babies died in a period of 36 hours at another government hospital in Kolkata, highlighting the poor state of health services in West Bengal.—*Internet*



New-born babies born in 2000 are lined up at a Kolkata hospital. At least 26 infants have died in the past five days in a state-run hospital in India's West Bengal State, authorities said.—INTERNET

Carnival reviewing cruise ship safety

MIAMI, 23 Jan—Carnival Corp, the US-based parent of the operator of the Costa Concordia, says it'll review all its cruise ships' safety and emergency-response procedures. The review, which comes in response to the Costa Concordia disaster that has left at least 12 people dead, will examine the procedures at all 10 Carnival lines, the company said in a news release. The company said it has had an "excellent safety record over the years."

"However, this tragedy has called into question our company's safety and emergency-response procedures and practices," Micky Arison, Carnival's chairman and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "While I have every confidence in the safety of our vessels and the

professionalism of our crews, this review will evaluate all practices and procedures to make sure that this kind of accident doesn't happen again."

The review is being led by Capt James Hunn, a retired US Navy captain and Carnival's senior vice president of Maritime Policy & Compliance. Hunn has held senior positions at Carnival nearly a decade focusing on maritime policy and overseeing health, environmental, safety and security practices. Miami-based Carnival also said its Health, Environment, Safety & Security Committee is enlisting outside industry experts to review all emergency-response and safety procedures and to conduct a "thorough review" of the Costa Concordia accident.

Internet

British Shebab fighter killed in Somalia



Fighters loyal to Somalia's Al-Qaeda inspired al-Shebab group perform military drills at a village in Lower Shabelle region in 2011. A British fighter with the Shebab militia in Somalia was killed on Saturday during a drone attack in the capital Mogadishu, said the movement's spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage.

INTERNET

MOGADISHU, 23 Jan—A British fighter with the Shebab militia in Somalia was killed Saturday during a drone attack in the capital Mogadishu, said the movement's spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage.

"This afternoon unmanned aircraft bombed and killed our brother Hilal Al Barzawi from Lebanon with British citizenship who fought in Somalia for a long time," he told reporters. He added that they were not yet sure to whom

the aircraft belonged, "but it is America that is known for utilizing such aircraft."

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

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

"We heard three explosions a few minutes after recognizing the sound of aircraft," said one witness, Bashir Ali.

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

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

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



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

Origin seals LNG deal with Chinese oil giant

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

Sinopec will pay \$US1.1 billion (\$1.05 billion) to increase its stake in the Australia Pacific LNG Project on Curtis Island from 15 percent to 25 percent.

The deal also means Sinopec will buy an extra 3.3 million metric tonnes of LNG per year for 20 years, making it the largest gas supply agreement in Australian history. Federal Trade Minister Craig Emerson says the project will have widespread benefits for

Queensland and represents a vote of confidence in the Australian economy. "This is a really good breakthrough and a step up in the intensity of investment in LNG," Mr Emerson said.

"Securing these sales contracts is so important. When you're putting in billions and billions of dollars

- I think it's \$45 billion or more going into Gladstone - you need these long-term contracts."

Origin managing director Grant King says the project remains on track and within its \$20 billion budget, with the first shipments expected in 2015.

Internet

Flaming-horned bull fatally gores man in Spain

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

The mayor of Navajas, population 730, said emergency services in his town were unable to save the life of the 45-year-old man whose name was withheld. Jose Vicente Torres said the accident happened when the man, who had traveled from Alboraya, about 70 kilometres (45 miles) to the south, tripped just as the bull was released.

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

"Although ours is a small town, many people from outside come to visit our feast dedicated to Saint Anton," Torres said, adding that black bows had been tied to town hall flags as a mark of respect and mourning.

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



A reveler releases a bull with flaming horns during a festival in honour of Saint Anthony, the patron saint of animals, in the streets of Gilet, a town near Valencia, Spain, in the early hours of 15 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET



Passengers walk down the stairs to board the train returning home at the railway station in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China's Fujian Province, on 22 Jan, 2012, the last day of China's Lunar Year of Rabbit.

XINHUA

Pakistan arrests 31 Indian fishermen, seizes 14 boats

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

A spokesman for MSA said that the fishermen were found within Pakistan's exclusive economic zone.

The fishermen were handed over to Docks Police in Karachi for registration of case.

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

The latest arrest came two weeks after Pakistan freed 179 Indian fishermen as a "goodwill gesture and a New Year gift".

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

Colo girl escapes apparent kidnapper, calls 911

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

(from page 1)

At the briefing hall of the project, DSEZMC Chairman Thura U Thaung Lwin reported on salient points about the project. He said that the

technologies all over the country thereby contributing to domestic industries and to build the region as commercial and transportation heart of South East Asia.

He went on that 23120 persons from 4075 households of 3984 houses from 18 villages were relocated. He explained measures for provision of better social and economic environment to them in detail.

Chairman of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd Mr Premchai

and responsible persons made supplementary reports. In response, the Vice-President made coordination and delivered an address.

In his speech, he said that under the aegis of the President, the government is specially focusing on establishing friendly ties with global countries and as a result, Myanmar's relations with the

international community is improving and prospects of economic cooperation are now foreseeable.

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

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

He then called for sympathetic attitude towards

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

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

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

(See page 9)



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

project is intended to create jobs and socio-economic development of the region through establishment of new production and service industries, and transportation and communication networks. Moreover, the project is aimed to facilitate the regional development by bringing about new industries and businesses in regions linked with Dawei Special Economic Zone., to aid the economic development of Dawei region as well as national economic growth by attracting local and foreign investments into the region, to import modern technologies and spread these

He said that the whole project includes special economic zone that covers an area of 204.51 square kilometers, about 160 kilometers long highway from Dawei to Funanrun Village at Myanmar-Thai border, electric power generation facilities, oil and gas pipelines from Dawei Port to Thailand, and 170 kilometers long railways from Dawei Port to Myanmar-Thai border. As for the first phase, Dawei deep sea port is being built to serve 200,000-ton ships and it would be built to be able to cope with 300,000-ton ships.

Karnasuta elaborated on step-by-step plans for establishment of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project. Next, Acting Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko reported on measures for land reclamation for the project and administrative assistance.

Chairman of Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Work Committee Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein discussed systematic implementation of the project in conformity with special economic zone law.

Afterwards, Union ministers, deputy ministers



A sample of house to be built for relocated villagers in compensation.—MNA

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

(from page 8)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Vice-President said in meeting with locals from Nabule region in the compound of the monastery that he and his entourage were there to coordinate the needs for Dawei region development, facilitation of tasks for Dawei Special Economic Zone and setting up new villages. The President has been engaging himself in rural development and poverty alleviation scheme for stability of the State and economic development, ending armed opposition, ensuring eternal peace and national economic development which are basic factors to see a developed nation. To have rapid develop-



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo hears reports on Dawei Special Economic Zone presented by Chairman of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd.

MNA

ment in the nation, the State promulgates Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law and Dawei Special Economic Zone Law. Dawei Special Economic Zone is a pilot project for remaining special economic projects to be implemented later. So, all are in need to cooperate to gain successful result.

The Vice-President went on that special emphasis is being placed on housing, livelihood, education, health and social requirements of those planned to evacuate from project site.

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

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

Next, senior locals presented needs of villagers.

After that, the Vice-President cordially greeted locals.

The Vice-President and party later proceeded to Dawei University where they were welcomed by Rector Dr Thauung Lwin and faculty members.

The Vice-President and party enquired about teaching and management requirements of the university and greeted the faculty members. Next, they stopped over in Dawei.

MNA

Verdict delivered to 13 special appeal cases

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—The tribunal of the Supreme court of the Union comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, and judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt and U Mya Thein delivered verdict to 13 special appeal civil cases at Room No. 1 of the Supreme Court of the Union this morning. They also heard four cases of writ application.—MNA

Plums from Singaing going to Ygn market

**Article and Photo:
Aung Min (Singaing)**

Singaing Township is a major mango and plum grower in Myanmar. With various types of soil, the region has a favourable weather for mango and plum trees. Now, Taiwan plum trees in the township are bearing a large number of fruits. I visited K.O.W advanced farm near Monbin village in the township.

The owner of the farm U Ko Ko Oo said, "We pick plum fruits as snow stops to swirl in the morning till lunch break. After that, the man who categorizes the palm fruits packaged each group of the fruits. The packages are then carried by Trawlerys to Win Thitsar bus stop and Koemyaychantha (Family) bus stop in Singaing Township and loaded onto 10-wheeled and 12-wheeled trucks. The packages are transported to Thirimingala Market in Yangon. A package of

Taiwan plums goes for K 5000 to K 8000-1000 and that of special fruits fetches K 14000. In Yangon market, the special fruits package is sold at the price of K 17000 or K 18000."

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

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

Translation: HKA
(Myanma Alin: 21-1-2012)



Taiwan plum trees in Singaing Township.



Florida is marking the centennial of Henry Flagler's Over-Sea Railroad. This photo, from the Florida Keys News Bureau shows an aerial view of Pigeon Key, a tiny island just west of Marathon, Fla., used as a base camp more than 100 years ago for workers building Henry Flagler's Florida Keys Over-Sea Railroad.—INTERNET

Tornadoes possible in southern US as snow threatens

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

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

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

Reuters

Six hurt in "sweet sixteen" birthday party shooting

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

A shoot-out between the

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

Three of the victims were treated and released from the hospital. A 13-year-old male and 21-year-old female

Study finds tired new dads a safety risk

CANBERRA, 23 Jan — Fathers of new babies are often so tired they pose a safety risk at work and on the road, a new study has found. The research found fathers of newborns were 36 per cent more likely to have a near miss at work, and 26 per cent more likely to have a near miss on the road.

Southern Cross University's Dr Gary Mellor led the study of 241 fathers,

mostly from the Gold Coast, and says the study is groundbreaking because new dads are a "notoriously hard group of people" to get hold of. He says many of those surveyed battled to find a work-family balance. "They were displaying a lot of conflict in that they were trying to put family first," he said. "They don't want to be that distant sole provider that their father was."

Despite this, Dr Mellor says the fathers in the study

worked an average of 49 hours a week. The majority of men involved in the research were employed as office workers or in construction and trade, and Dr Mellor says each workplace has its own set of risks. "In an office it might be that you fall down some stairs, or you trip over cords, but it's also about the decisions you make," he said. "On a construction site it's working with heavy equipment, cranes, nail guns."—Internet



The study found new dads were more likely to pose a safety risk at work.—INTERNET



The Hotel Riu Emerald Bay in the Mexican resort town of Mazatlan has several five-star ratings on travel websites.—INTERNET

Canadian woman beaten at Mexico resort hotel

MAZATLAN, 23 Jan — Consular officials are in contact with the family of a young Canadian woman who was reportedly beaten unconscious in a hotel in Mexico's Mazatlan resort region and are pressing for an investigation into the incident, according to a statement released on Sunday. "Our thoughts are with the badly injured Canadian and her family during this difficult time. Our officials in Mexico have provided, and will

continue to provide, consular assistance to her and her family," said John Babcock, spokesman for Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Diane Ablonczy.

Mexican federal police told CBC News on Sunday that the woman, reportedly in her 20s, was found lying in an elevator on early Saturday. The police officer would not provide his own name, nor reveal details about the victim's age or identity.

Mexican media reports

that the woman was found at the Hotel Riu in Punta Cerritos and is said to be in serious condition. Police statements say another tourist was trying to enter the elevator and discovered the woman lying on the floor in a pool of blood, according to a noroeste.com report. The report said investigators suspect she may have been assaulted in a hotel room, dragged down the hall to the elevator and then abandoned.

Internet

property. The home isn't safe; it's not sanitary. It's certainly not suitable for anyone to live in, especially not a 101-year-old mother."

It is unclear as to when, or if, Hollis will be able to move back into her home. "We're not giving up," Sullivan said. "We're talking with anybody and everybody about solutions to this situation, but the condition of the property is a challenge." Since being evicted, Hollis has been living with her longtime friend and neighbor, Pollian Cheeks, 68, who has a spare room in her home with an adjustable bed. "Polly's just as nice to me as anybody could be. She goes out of her way to help me," Hollis said, holding back tears. "It's just like living at home, but it's not my home."—Internet

101-year-old woman evicted from her home

DETROIT, 23 Jan—A 101-year-old woman who authorities promised could move back into her Detroit home after being evicted four months ago has not yet been allowed to return. Texana Hollis' home was foreclosed on by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development after her son, Warren Hollis, 65, failed to pay \$7,000 in property taxes to keep a reverse mortgage, *The Detroit News* reported on Sunday.

Soon after the eviction, HUD spokesman Brian Sullivan said Hollis could live in her house "for as long as she wants"—but that was before HUD evaluated the property. "We saw a house that was completely unsuitable for a person to live in," Sullivan said. "We can't allow someone to live in that [atmosphere] now that we are essentially the owners of the

Dead woman may have been unregistered

ROME, 23 Jan — A woman's body pulled from the Costa Concordia wreckage might be that of an unregistered passenger, an Italian official has said as another body was

discovered. The discovery of a woman's body today brings the death toll to 13. Civil protection chief Franco Gabrielli said relatives of a Hungarian woman have told authorities that she had telephoned them from aboard the ship and that they have not heard from her since the disaster.

He said it was possible that the body of a woman recovered on Saturday might be that of the unregistered passenger. The woman, who was dressed in a life jacket, was found by divers in a corridor near what had been

an evacuation staging point. Mr Gabrielli, however, said the identity of the woman and three male bodies found a few days earlier have yet to be established.

Officials have so far identified eight of the 13 bodies recovered from the capsized ship. Twenty-three people are still listed as missing from the vessel which struck rocks near the port of Giglio Island, off the Tuscan coast, on the night of 13 January. The 13th body was found today as it emerged that the ship's captain Francesco Schettino



Relatives of French passengers on board the ship arrive at mass on Giglio.—INTERNET

Captain Francesco Schettino and the wrecked Costa Concordia. INTERNET



Germany has the economic strengths America once boasted

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

Yet the Krugers have a higher standard of living than many Americans who have twice that income. Their secret: little debt, frugal habits and a government that is intensely focused on high production, low inflation and extensive social services. That has given them job security and good medical care as well as well-maintained roads, trains and bike paths. Both of their adult children are out on their own, thanks in part to Germany's job-training system and heavy subsidies for university education. For instance, Volkmar's out-of-pocket costs for stomach surgery and 10 days in a hospital totaled just \$13 a day. College tuition for their son runs about \$260 a semester.

Germany, with its manufacturing base and export prowess, is the America of yesteryear, an economic power unlike any of its European neighbours. As the world's fourth-largest



Vera and Volkmar Kruger, seen here in the town of Limburg, Germany, not far from their home in Elz, earn about \$40,000 a year but live as well as an American couple making twice as much. — INTERNET

economy, it has thrived on principles that the United States seems to have gradually lost. It has tightly managed its budget and adopted reforms — such as raising the retirement age — that some other Eurozone nations are just now being forced to undertake. And few countries can match Germany's capabilities for producing and exporting machinery and other equipment, or its infrastructure for research, apprenticeships and financing that support manufacturing. —Internet

A reporter's laptop shows the Wikipedia blacked out opening page in Brussels on 18 Jan, 2012. — INTERNET

Epic clash: Silicon Valley blindsides Hollywood on piracy



LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan — The massive online protest last Wednesday, in which Wikipedia and thousands of other websites closed down or otherwise protested and helped to kill controversial online piracy legislation, was widely heralded as an unprecedented case of a grassroots uprising

overcoming backroom lobbying.

Yet a close look at how the debate unfolded suggests that traditional means of influencing policy in Washington had its place too. The technology industry has ramped up its political activities dramatically in recent years, and in fact, has

spent more than the entertainment industry — \$1.2 billion between 1998 and 2011, compared with \$906.4 million spent by entertainment companies.

The latest chapter in what has become an epic, decades-long battle between the two industries over copyrighted digital content began innocuously enough. Hollywood movie studios, frustrated by online theft that they claim already costs them billions of dollars a year and will only get worse, in 2010 started pushing for a law that would make it possible to block access and cut off payments to foreign websites offering pirated material.

In 2010, longtime industry friend Sen Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont, introduced a bill,

the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act, that passed the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously but never went further.

In May last year, Leahy tried again, introducing his Protect IP (Intellectual Property) Act.

Internet

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

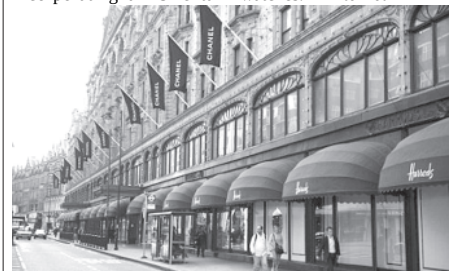
LONDON, 23 Jan — Luxury stores are preparing for thousands of wealthy Far Eastern shoppers to coincide with the start of the Chinese Year of the Dragon. The easing of travel restrictions in China means the turn of the year has become a time for international travel and shopping for the country's

elite. They will be looking for British brands such as Burberry and Mulberry, and international brands such as Prada and Gucci.

Spending by Chinese tourists in UK stores rose by 64 percent last year, say retail analysts Global Blue, and totalled £165 million. Bond Street shops have hired Mandarin-speaking staff while Harrods has installed 75 tills for Chinese shoppers and the UnionPay card, which is China's only domestic debit and credit card. And yesterday, the store unveiled commemorative investment gold bars, each incorporating an Oriental

Dragon, in a bid to appeal to the tourists.

Richard Brown of Global Blue said: 'Chinese New Year reflects an important cultural shift in China with families now travelling abroad as an alternative to celebrations at home.' Retailers are bracing themselves for a significant uplift in Chinese shoppers and hope to repeat staggering growth. 'Luxury brands are set to benefit the most from this uplift, with Chinese shoppers spending on average £729 per tax free transaction favouring handbags, jewellery and watches.' —Internet



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

Venezuela to buy Embraer, Airbus jets

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

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

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

Kia to air big game ads early

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan — Kia Motors USA said it would forgo some of the surprise factor in its Super Bowl ads this year, allowing US audiences an initial viewing in movie theaters.

The Super Bowl is more than a football game. It is also a television event that has become the parade of parades, when it comes to advertising. Many company's debut major ad campaigns on Super Bowl on Sunday.

The surprise factor is part of the fun. But Kia said it would begin running trailers of its Super Bowl ads in 18,000 movie theaters on 27 Jan, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Saturday. Then, on 1 Feb, four days before the game, Kia said it would show the entire 60-second commercial, which is titled, "Drive the Dream," at the same 18,000 theaters.

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

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

Internet

Nigeria's President visits city where bombings killed at least 165

LAGOS, 23 Jan — Nigeria's President toured his nation's second largest city on Sunday after blasts there killed at least 165 people, and left the police headquarters and other government buildings in charred ruins. "The message I had for the people of Kano is the same message I have for all Nigerians: A terrorist attack on one person is an attack on all of us," President Goodluck Jonathan said in a post on his official Facebook page after the visit.

Jonathan stopped by several attack sites in the northern city, met with the wounded at a hospital and spoke with victims' families. Authorities have lifted a daytime curfew imposed in Kano after the bombings, which hit eight government sites Friday. But an overnight curfew remained between 7 pm to 6 am, according to residents. Shell-shocked residents wandered the streets, looking for loved ones. Others hid behind barricaded doors, too scared to leave for fear of more attacks.

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



Atmosphere tense after Kano attacks.— *INTERNET*



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

Arnie visits Austrian town run on green energy

GUESSING, 23 Jan — It was another chance to tuck into a schnitzel. But Arnold Schwarzenegger's visit to a small eastern Austrian town had a more compelling purpose. Austria's most famous living son is proud of his record of greening California while governor. So his visit to Guessing, which meets its energy needs through renewables, was fitting.

In both Guessing and California, "the world has already become a better one," he told fans and dignitaries gathered in his honor Sunday. After a lunch of Wiener schnitzel and Kaiserschmarrn — chopped up pancakes with jam — Arnie toured the village's energy plants, describing his push for green energy as "my crusade." And yes, the "Terminator" star did say, "I'll be back."

— *Internet*

Three workers hospitalised in paper mill blaze

TUMUT, 23 Jan — Three workers have been taken to hospital with injuries from a fire at a paper mill near Tumut in southern New South Wales. Firefighters say it could take days to fully extinguish the blaze at the Visy site, where more than 1,200 tonnes of waste paper is alight. Professional and volunteer brigades were called to the mill about 8:00pm (AEDT) yesterday, with fresh crews brought in this morning.

Mike Liston from the Rural Fire Service says it will be difficult to put the fire out. "Once we get into the bails we'd be bringing in excavators and pulling it apart and wetting it down and extinguishing it as we go," he said. Of the men

injured, one suffered smoke inhalation, another minor burns and the third a broken leg. "One of the stacks collapsed and he got hit by some falling debris," Mr Liston said of the man with the fracture.

All three are in Tumut Hospital in a stable condition. Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) spokesman Ken Fraser says the injured men were all union members. "It could mean we may try and go on the site and investigate it and we'll talk to our members to see where it went, what happened," he said. The mill continues to operate, despite the presence of fire crews on site. — *Internet*

Purported Bonnie and Clyde guns sells for \$210K

KANSAS CITY, 23 Jan — Two guns thought to have been used by bank-robbing fugitives Bonnie and Clyde have snatched \$210,000 at an auction. The Joplin Globe reported an online bidder from the East Coast on Saturday bought the weapons believed to have been seized from the outlaw couple's Joplin hideout in 1933.

Sold were a .45-caliber, fully automatic Thompson submachine gun — better known as a Tommy gun — and a 1897 Winchester 12-gauge shotgun. Mayo Auction, of Kansas City, was not given permission to release the name of the buyer. Two law enforcement officers died during a shootout at the Joplin apartment where the couple and members of their gang were holed up, but all the members of the Clyde Barrow gang escaped. — *Internet*



This undated file photo provided by Mayo Auction and Realty shows a .45-caliber, fully automatic Thompson submachine gun believed to have been seized from outlaw couple Bonnie and Clyde. — *INTERNET*

Companies see growth but few new jobs

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

Although the US jobless rate fell to a near three-year low of 8.5 percent in December, fewer businesses said they would hire more workers, compared with the previous industry poll.

The survey, which was conducted between 15 December 2011, and 5 January 2012, found that 65 percent of respondents expect gross domestic product growth to exceed 2 percent between the fourth quarter of last year and the last quarter of 2012. That was higher than the 1.6 percent growth rate economists polled by Reuters found. About two-thirds of the companies surveyed said the European debt crisis would have little impact on their sales over the first half of the year, while 27 percent of respondents said they expected to see a decline in sales of 10 percent or less.

— *Internet*

Explosion injures four in Jabaliya refugee camp

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



Displaced Palestinian families are seen at the Kamal Udwan hospital in the northern Gaza refugee camp of Jabaliya. — *INTERNET*

Toyota expected to announce job cuts

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan — The union representing Toyota workers expects the company to announce today that it will cut more than 100 jobs. The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union says a drop in demand for locally-made cars and the high Australian dollar are hurting the company, despite ending 2011 as Australia's top car seller.

The company is expected to address workers this afternoon in Melbourne. Union spokesman Ian Jones says any job cuts at Toyota will lead to further job losses elsewhere. "For every single job in automotive manufacturing directly, you have a three to four to one flow-on effect," he said.

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

— *Internet*



In this photo taken 16 Jan, 2012, Kellie Burke of Bethel, Vt, looks out over what was her driveway before Gilthead Brook changed course during Tropical Storm Irene, washing away much of her land and creating an island out of her property. Since the storm, Burke, a 48-year-old high school librarian, and June Tierney, a 47-year-old lawyer who works for the state board that regulates utilities, have to cross a ford — a new, narrow road that dips into the old stream and has no guardrails — to get home, and face an uncertain future.

Big NYC guy sues over lack of jail uniform

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

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

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

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

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

UK boy calls gender differences 'silly'

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

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

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

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

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

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

Man uses camera to deflect shark bite

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

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

"I was looking through the viewfinder of the camera when I suddenly saw this huge mouth and teeth," Easton said.

"Sharks bite because that is how they find out what something is," he said. "It had its mouth wide open and was about to bite me, but bit the camera instead. That gave me a few vital seconds to swim away."

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



WWF "Life Grows On" photo competition: Yellowstone National Park, Montana - This photo captures the boundless sky of the west, the warm richness of sage and the independent spirit of the cowboy. The adventure of riding into the backcountry and experience of wilderness are inspirational.

News Album

Happy mom Sharon Stone on the rebound

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan—Sharon Stone says she is having a blast as a mom and getting back into the swing of Hollywood after recovering from a brain hemorrhage. The screen siren gave an interview published recently in *AARP The Magazine* detailing her recovery from the hemorrhage that struck 10 years ago and had her questioning whether she would ever return to acting.

"The side of my face was falling down," Stone told her *AARP*. "I thought, 'I'll never be pretty again. Who's going to want to be around me?'"

People said this week that there are indeed folks who want her around. She has film projects in the works, including a part in the upcoming biopic about 1970s porn starlet Linda Lovelace.

Internet



Actress Sharon Stone makes comments during a tribute to honour the memory of actress and AIDS activist Dame Elizabeth Taylor at Macy's Passport Glamorama at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles on 23 September, 2011.—INTERNET



American actress Elizabeth McGovern, star of the television series "Downton Abbey," attends the "British Independent Film Awards" at Old Billingsgate Market in London on 4 Dec, 2011. INTERNET

Historian slams 'Downton Abbey'

NEW YORK, 23 Jan—A noted British historian says the wildly popular "Downton Abbey" television drama is inaccurate and full of stereotyped characters.

Historian Simon Schama, who teaches at Columbia University, says the costume drama, playing in Britain and on US Public Broadcasting Service affiliates, is full of improbable storylines and historical inaccuracies.

The drama indulges in "cultural necrophilia" and offers nothing but "cliches" about an upper class British family and their servants in a stately country home, he wrote in *Newsweek*.

"Downton serves up a steaming, silvered tureen of snobbery," he wrote this week.

Schama also criticized the show's stock characters. "The series is fabulously frocked, and acted, and overacted, and hyper-overacted by all the Usual Suspects in keeping with their allotted roles," he wrote.—Internet

Jim Reeves' music royalties at issue in trial

NASHVILLE, 23 Jan—A trial over how music royalties of the late country singer "Gentleman" Jim Reeves should be split is set to begin this week.

Reeves was a country music sensation when he died nearly 50 years ago in a plane crash at the age of 39.

The two-day trial that begins Monday will focus on how much Terry Davis, who married Reeves' widow, should receive from royalties of up to \$400,000 a year, *The Tennessean* reported.

Reeves is best known for the lyric "Put your sweet lips a little closer to the phone" but he stayed on the charts from 1970 through 1984 because of how his widow, Mary Reeves Davis, managed his posthumous career. His most popular songs included "He'll Have To Go" and "Welcome To My World."—Internet

'Underworld' sinks teeth into box office with \$25m

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

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

"She is such a force. Her character — you just can't take your eyes off of her. I know the character is very dear to her, as well, and she just kills it," Bruer said. "The 3-D aspect of the film also brings something, makes it a fun, visceral ride." Opening in second place was "Red Tails" from executive producer George

Lucas, about the Tuskegee Airmen who were the first black fighter pilots to serve in World War II. It made an estimated \$19.1 million, according to 20th Century Fox, which was well above expectations; the studio had hoped to reach double digits, said Chris Aronson, executive vice president of domestic distribution.—Internet



Cast member Kate Beckinsale arrives at the premiere of "Underworld Awakening" in Los Angeles, on 19 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Razzies worst-movie awards shift to April Fool's Day

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan—Hollywood's sardonic season is going to linger on through April Fool's Day this year.

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

Razzies founder John Wilson announced Sunday that nominations this season will be released 25 Feb, the eve of the Oscar ceremony. Winners of the Razzies will be announced on 1 April. Wilson says Razzies organizers have long wanted to have their awards coincide with April Fool's Day. A news release announcing the change also notes that it will give the 600 Razzies voters "additional time to see the dreck they will eventually nominate."—Internet



In this 1958 file photo Country singer Jim Reeves poses with his Gibson J-200 guitar on the "Country Music Jubilee." INTERNET



Redknapp says Mario Balotelli should have been sent off

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

INTERNET



LONDON, 23 Jan — Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp says Mario Balotelli should not have been on the pitch to win and convert Manchester City's injury-time winner from the penalty spot after the Italian appeared to stamp on Scott Parker. Despite the 3-2 defeat, Redknapp says he is proud of the way his team played at the Etihad Stadium and is disappointed Jermain Defoe was "inches short" of putting Spurs ahead in the dying minutes.

Internet

Platt says mixed emotions for Man City boss Roberto Mancini

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

Internet

Manchester City's Nedum Onuoha has attracted interest from QPR and Everton

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

LONDON, 23 Jan — Nedum Onuoha's £3million transfer from Manchester City to QPR is in doubt after Everton expressed an interest in the defender.

Hoops boss Mark Hughes said at the weekend he expected to make at least one new signing on Monday and it was thought the Onuoha deal was the closest to completion.

However, the 25-year-old, who is not part of Roberto Mancini's plans at the Etihad Stadium, has now been given another option.

Everton boss David Moyes has registered his interest and a move to Goodison Park is likely to prove attractive to the player, reports the People.

Onuoha, who spent last season on loan at Sunderland, is said to be keen to stay in the north-west, even though he could expect a larger salary at Loftus Road.

QPR are working on a host of other deals, as Hughes looks to build a squad capable of avoiding relegation.

Chelsea centre-back Alex, Spurs midfielder Steven Pienaar, Fulham striker Bobby Zamora and Birmingham goalkeeper Ben Foster, who is currently on loan at West Brom, are among the Welshman's targets.—Internet



Sir Alex Ferguson pleased with Man Utd defensive display

LONDON, 23 Jan — Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson says he is happy to just "keep on the

coattails" of local rivals Manchester City after his side's 2-1 win over Arsenal at the Emirates keeps them three

points behind the Premier League leaders.

Ferguson is full of praise for the performance of his

defenders, and reserves special mention for in-form winger Antonio Valencia, who scored United's opener and set up Danny Welbeck's winner.

Internet

Serena Williams loses to Ekaterina Makarova at Australian Open 2012



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

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan — Serena Williams became the most high-profile casualty at the Australian Open so far after suffering a shock last-16 defeat by unseeded Ekaterina Makarova.

The 13-time major champion—a five-time winner at Melbourne Park—made 37 unforced errors as 56th-ranked Makarova won 6-2, 6-3 in 82 minutes. "I don't know

what to say. It's an amazing feeling," said Makarova. In her first Grand Slam quarter-final, the Russian will play compatriot Maria Sharapova or Germany's Sabine Lisicki. The result ended Williams's 17-match Australian Open winning streak.

The American, seeded 12th after an injury-hit 18 months, and absent from last year's tournament, had not lost in Melbourne since a defeat by Jelena Jankovic in 2008.

It was her first loss to a player ranked outside the world's top 50 in three years and only the third time since 2006 she had lost before the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam.—Internet

Petra Kvitova beats Ana Ivanovic at Australian Open 2012



Kvitova is into the last eight for the second year running.

INTERNET

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan — Petra Kvitova remains in contention for the Australian Open title and world number one ranking after beating Ana Ivanovic to reach the quarter-finals.

The Czech second seed, who has a chance of replacing Caroline Wozniacki

at the top of the rankings, won 6-2 7-6 (7-2) on a scorching day at Melbourne Park. "It was a really tough match at the end of the second set," said the reigning Wimbledon champion. Kvitova will play Sara Errani of Italy who beat China's Zheng Jie 6-2, 6-1.

Internet



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

INTERNET

Holly Bleasdale smashes own British pole vault record

LYON, 23 Jan — Pole vaulter Holly Bleasdale smashed her own British indoor record and moved to second on the all-time world list with a clearance of 4.87m in Lyon. The 20-year-old improved her record by one centimetre in going over at 4.72m, and managed 4.80m at the first attempt. She then cleared 4.87m at the third attempt to win the event and assume the lead in the world rankings. Only world record holder Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia has gone higher, with a clearance of 5m. In attempting to beat that record, Bleasdale failed to clear 5.01m, but was nonetheless satisfied with what she achieved in France.—Internet

Mourinho faces Real Madrid revolt

MADRID, 23 Jan — Jose Mourinho was facing a Real Madrid revolt on Sunday after he claimed his players were stabbing him in the back, sports daily *Marca* reported. *Marca* claimed the combustible Portuguese coach had accused some of his stars of trying to betray him by conducting a whispering campaign in the Press.

"You killed me in the mixed zone," Mourinho was reported to have said to his players, referring to the bustling area where media get the opportunity to talk to

players after matches.

"Obviously, as you Spanish are the world champions, your friends in the press will protect you." The fall-out between the coach and his team came in the aftermath of Madrid's 2-1 defeat by Barcelona in the King's Cup quarter-final first leg on Wednesday.

Marca said that Mourinho had rowed with defender Sergio Ramos, who he claimed had not marked Carles Puyol closely enough, allowing the veteran Barca player to score the equaliser in Wednesday's tie.

The newspaper even reported the pair's heated exchange. "Ramos: 'We decided to change the marking positions (with Pepe).'" "Mourinho: 'So you are trying to be the coach?'" "Ramos: 'No, but sometimes you have to change the marking in a match. As you have never worn the shirt as a high-level player, you wouldn't know that this situation sometimes presents itself.'" Madrid were due to host Athletic Bilbao on Sunday evening, when they will bid to re-establish their five-point lead at the La Liga summit.—Internet

Andy Murray beats Mikhail Kukushkin at Australian Open 2012

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan — Andy Murray reached the Australian Open quarter-finals for a third year running after Mikhail Kukushkin retired through injury while trailing 6-1, 6-1, 1-0. The effects of two five-set matches in rounds two and three took their toll on Kukushkin, who pulled out with a left hip flexor problem after 49 minutes.

"It was hot on the court and it is good for me that I have conserved energy,"



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

said British number one Murray.

The fourth seed will play Kei Nishikori after he stunned Jo-Wilfried

Tsonga. Murray has a winning record against the 24th seed, the first Japanese man to reach the Australian quarter-finals for 80 years, and the Scot approaches that match on Wednesday feeling fresh.

He described the win over the 24-year-old Kazakh player as "boring" and stated his intention to return to Rod Laver Arena later on Monday for an extra practice session.

Internet

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

MANCHESTER, 23 Jan — Manchester United are interested in Brazil striker Leandro Damiao.

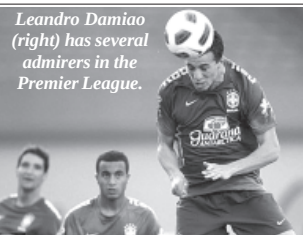
The 22-year-old was

subject of a £15million bid from Tottenham in the summer but his club Internacional want £24m.

United are also

continuing to show interest in Crystal Palace full-back Nathaniel Clyne and Southampton's Luke Shaw, 16.

Internet



Leandro Damiao (right) has several admirers in the Premier League.

DISTRICT NEWS

Revenue matters discussed

HPA-AN, 22 Jan—Internal Revenue Department of Hpa-an Township held a coordination meeting for 2011-2012 fiscal year at its office in Hpa-an on 14 January. Head of State IRD U Khin Maung Win discussed levying various taxes and reviewing the tasks. Heads of Township IRDs submitted collection of taxes till December 2011 and future tasks.—*District IPRD*



Uniforms provided to midwifery trainees

NAMKHAM, 22 Jan—Muse District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee clarified its tasks and provided uniforms to midwives at the People's Hospital in Namkham Township on 5 January.

Chairperson of Muse District MCWSC Daw Nwe Oo Mon and officials explained conducting of midwifery course. Later, they presented uniforms to 24 midwifery course trainees.

Township IPRD

Ronaldo double as Real hit by 'player revolt' row

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



Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo

On the day that Marca sports daily claimed coach Jose Mourinho had accused some Real stars of betraying him in the aftermath of the midweek King's Cup defeat to Barca, things got worse for his side. Fernando Llorente gave Athletic a shock lead after 12 minutes following an inch perfect pass from Javi Martinez and in an evenly-contested first half Oscar De Marcos was denied a second goal when keeper Iker Casillas blocked well.—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(24-1-12 09:30 am ~ 25-1-12 09:30 am) MST

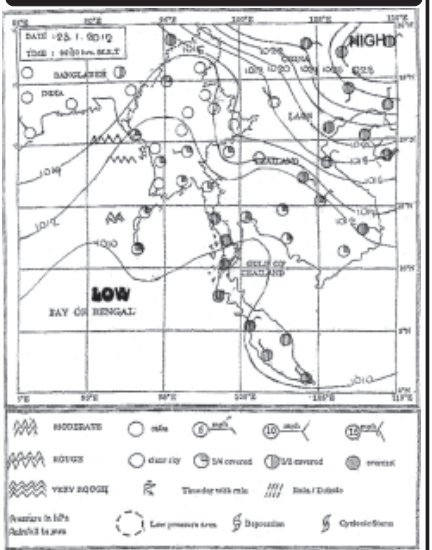
- Overseas Transmission**
- * News
 - * A worth studying site for ancient Myanmar Heritages
 - * News
 - * Secret Places for Yummy Food "Myanmar Rice Meal"
 - * News
 - * Paying Obeisance the Teachers Ceremony By 1982-90 Batch of the University of Medicine (I)
 - * Music Gallery
 - * Commemoration of 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day
 - * Youth and Language "YUFL (Part-1)"
 - * Amazing Interior Decoration
 - * Song for You
 - * News
 - * Kanyin Dam, A Pride of Ayeyarwaddy Region
 - * Culture Stage
 - * Serenely Pleasant Pindaya
 - * Myanmar Movies "Never Lie To Your Heart"

MYANMAR TV

(24-1-2012) (Tuesday)

- 7:00 am**
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am**
2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:10 am**
3. Song Of National Races
- 8:25 am**
4. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 8:40 am**
5. International News
- 8:45 am**
6. Local Talent
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial Song
- 4:35 pm**
2. One Village & One Product
- 5:00 pm**
3. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm**
4. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:25 pm**
5. Documentary
- 7:00 pm**
6. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
7. News
 8. Bakery World
 9. TV Drama Series
 10. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 24th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	25/77	09/48	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	28/82	07/45	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	36/97	15/59	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	28/88	-02/30	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	27/81	18/50	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	30/86	12/54	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	21/70	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	14/57	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	
10	Manitlay	31/88	13/55	Generally fair weather	
11	Mun	36/97	18/64	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	27/81	12/54	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	07/45	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	05/41	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	08/46	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	32/90	16/61	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33/91	12/54	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	31/88	13/55	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) to (°F) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kayah and Kayah States, (°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Hakha (-1°C), Pindag (0°C), Namam, Heho and Loolin (1°C) each.

Bay Inference
Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea
Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days
Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar Areas.

Wenger not tempted to rush into transfer market

LONDON, 23 Jan—Arsene Wenger does not intend to rush into the transfer market to beef up his Arsenal squad despite the club's defensive frailties being made glaringly apparent in yesterday's 2-1 defeat to Manchester United.

Thomas Vermaelen and Johan Djourou had a torrid time playing out of position at full-back and it was no coincidence that United's two goals from Antonio Valencia and Danny Welbeck came from wide positions.

Wenger has had no fit recognised full-backs since before Christmas, but the Frenchman refuses to enter the market and wants to focus instead on helping the likes of Bacary Sagna, Kieran Gibbs and Andre Santos return to full fitness.

Asked whether he agreed with the view that Arsenal must spend to improve, Wenger replied "I don't. Spending money is not the target. It never has been in life."

"We need our players back. We missed 10 players. When you see what we created in the second half, it's important for us to get the players back." Arsenal, who are without long-term injury victim Jack Wilshere, have also



been hit by the absence of Gervinho and Marouane Chamakh, who are at the African Nations Cup.

One positive aspect of the duo's absence has been that Wenger was able to give Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain his first

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

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

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

He said: "I can understand that the fans are upset about the substitution, especially when it doesn't work, but he (Oxlade-Chamberlain) had started to fatigue. "He was sick in the week. You have an 18-year-old kid making his first Premier League start and a player who's captain of his country and they are querying the substitution? Let's be serious. "I've been a manager for 30 years and have made 50,000 subs. I do not have to justify every decision I make. I stand up for it."—*Internet*

Drug-resistant malaria found in Greater Mekong Sub-region



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

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—“Malaria is one of the diseases Myanmar needs to fight as top priority for it remains as public health issue in Myanmar like such South Asian and South East Asian nations as India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Timor Leste”, said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet

Khin at the opening of Myanmar Artemisinin Resistance Containment (MARC) Symposium at Amara Hotel here this morning.

The Union Minister continued that malaria is rooted in 284 out of 330 townships in Myanmar. Especially, malaria is

frequently seen in rural and border regions. A total of 68 per cent of the whole population resides in areas vulnerable to malaria. According to statistics of the Health Department, 650,000 persons suffered from malaria, of which 788 died in 2010.

He added that migrant workers, workers engaged in development projects, emigrants to malaria-infected regions, and those engaged in farming, wood-cutting, and forest-related works are mostly suffered from malaria and of those, migrant workers are the most vulnerable. As national anti-malaria movement, currently, campaigns against malaria are being conducted according to national anti-malaria strategies and global anti-malaria strategies.

He went on that malaria viruses have now gradually become resistant to artemisinin, which was first found in border areas of Thailand and Cambodia and later in some regions of Greater Mekong Sub-region basin, especially in border regions linked with eastern areas of Myanmar, warned the Union Minister.

If the situation gets worsen, it would heavily deter the progress of anti-malaria campaigns worldwide. The ultimate goal of Artemisinin Resistance Containment Plan is to prevent the spread of artemisinin resistance not only in Myanmar but also to countries sharing borders with it, at least to hinder the spread of artemisinin resistance significantly.

Afterwards, the discussion was held, chaired by Deputy Director-General Dr Saw Lwin and participants held talks on anti-malaria campaigns and measures to control artemisinin resistance.

MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—The semi-finals for the fifth Nay Pyi Taw Inter-ministry volleyball (2012) continued at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Stadium this morning and evening.

In the morning event, the Ministry of Industry team beat the Ministry of Construction team 3-1. In the evening event, the Ministry of Border Affairs team routed the Ministry of Information team 3-0. On 26 January, the Ministry of Information team meets the Ministry of Construction team for the third place. And on 27 January, the Ministry of Industry team plays against the Ministry of Border Affairs team for the final match.—MNA

Workshop on Livestock Products Market held in Patheingyi

PATHEINGYI, 23 Jan—In accord with the rural development and poverty alleviation programme of Ayeyawady Region, a workshop on Livestock Products Market took place at the office of Ayeyawady Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Patheingyi on 31 December.

Deputy Director of Region LBVD Dr Tin Maung Aye made a speech. Members of the Region Livestock Breeding Committee, layer breeders and egg traders participated in discussions on market situation of livestock breeding and the ways to improve it.—District IPRD

Significant night temperatures (23-1-2012)

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

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

LONDON, 23 Jan—The midfielder was substituted before half-time on Saturday as Chelsea played out a goalless draw with Norwich in the Premier League.

Lampard was later seen on the bench with the leg heavily strapped but Andre Villas-Boas stated after the game that he was hopeful the injury was not too serious.

Scans have now shown that the England international only suffered a minor problem and should be available for selection again in the near future.

Revealing the extent of the damage in a statement on their official website, Chelsea indicated that Lampard would probably sit out this weekend's clash with QPR.

Sky Bet Odds

Could an injury lay off open the door for interested clubs to make offers for the Chelsea midfielder? He's 11/2 to sign for LA Galaxy! Bet now.

The Blues then face Swansea in the league on Tuesday 31st January and will hope to have Lampard back in



Chelsea have revealed that Frank Lampard has a small calf tear and is unlikely to face Queens Park Rangers in the FA Cup.

contention.

“A scan on the injury Frank Lampard suffered during the game at Norwich on Saturday shows he has a small tear in a calf muscle,” read the club statement.

“The midfielder is unlikely to feature in the FA Cup fourth-round match against Queens Park Rangers on Saturday but is expected to join up with the rest of the squad in Mallorca where they are training this week.”

Internet

Scientists test sick Alaska seals for radiation

SEATTLE, 23 Jan—Scientists in Alaska are investigating whether local seals are being sickened by radiation from Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant. Scores of ring seals have washed up on Alaska's Arctic coastline since July, suffering or killed by a mysterious disease marked by bleeding lesions on the hind flippers, irritated skin around the nose and eyes and patchy hair loss on the animals' fur coats.

Biologists at first thought the seals were suffering from

a virus, but they have so far been unable to identify one, and tests are now underway to find out if radiation is a factor.

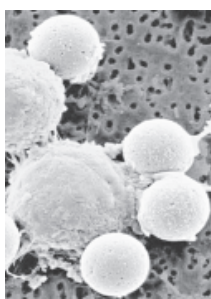
“We recently received samples of seal tissue from diseased animals captured near St Lawrence Island with a request to examine the material for radioactivity,” said John Kelley, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Marine Science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. “There is concern expressed by some members of the local communities that there may be some relationship to the Fukushima nuclear reactor's damage,” he said. The results of the tests would not be available for “several weeks,” Kelley said.—Reuters



Labour Ministry closely cooperating with ILO for forced labour issues

PAGE 2

A new way to beat blood cancer?



PAGE 4



Redknapp says Mario Balotelli should have been sent off

PAGE 14

Andy Murray beats Mikhail Kukushkin at Australian Open 2012



PAGE 14