Government will simultaneously open spaces for participation of individual organization or citizen in peace process

NAW PYI TAW, 1 March—The following is the translation of President U Thein Sein’s speech through radio programmes to the entire people the length and breadth of the nation on 1-3-2013.

Firstly, I would like to recall significances of this year’s Union Day dinner on 12 February. 66 years ago on that day—on 12 February, 1947—our national leader General Aung San and ethnic leaders signed Panglong agreement amidst a spate of challenges to help the demographically and culturally enriched Union stand head and shoulder on the world stage.

Why I say this year’s Union Day is significant is because we have seen lights at the end of the tunnel in our peace process alongside firm potentials for national reconciliation. Ethnic leaders, parties and organizations came face to face with the Speakers of Amyotha Hluttaw and of Pyithu Hluttaw, lawmakers including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Defence Services personnel representatives, leaders of ceased-forced ethnic armed groups at the dinner. We have waited and scarified much years for such a meaningful dinner of Union Day. The dinner strengthened mutual trust among leaders in internal peace talks.

As I have dealt with both ethnic leaders and the people in the course of my service, I understand the pains of the people. I understand that only a handshake or dinner is not enough for genuine peace. Though, we have to build the foundation for eternal peace on friendship and trust from these events.

My meeting with leaders of ethnic armed groups on internal peace making process on 13 February coincided with the birthday of General Aung San. I would like to convey a message to you that we have made a firm step towards the national reconciliation which would be the best possible birthday present to our national leader by the people of Myanmar.

I had invited KIO/KIA leaders to attend Union Day dinner. We have to understand that they could not attend it due to remaining various difficulties and reasons although we had a belief that they would like to take part in the Union Day dinner together with us happily. But, KIO/KIA and Union government have had more understanding and restored trust through Shweli peace talks held on 6 February. I do believe a truce would be reached and a sustainable peace process could be created. I am very pleased to see the attitude and stance of KIO/KIA on genuine peace, equity and self-determination of national races, rights and negotiation stated on the press release about Shweli peace talks. Cordial greetings between military columns and KIA groups when they came across proved that it is a joyful progress. With more positive signs in security situation, humanitarian aid is being

(See page 8)

It needs to seek solutions in a peaceful way: President U Thein Sein

NAW PYI TAW, 28 Feb—President U Thein Sein held discussions with Ambassadors of Norway on peace-making process at Hotel Continental, Oslo of Norway yesterday morning. At the call, they cordially discussed peace-making processes, challenges and Norway’s assistance.

It was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Thane, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and ambassador U Kyaw Myo Hlut, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Katja Nordgaard, ambassadors Ms Mona Juul and Mr Kai Eide and General Wilhelmsen. Then, the President met Foreign Affairs reporter Mr Philip Lote of Norway Public Broadcasting Co. In the afternoon, the President and party held discussions with Deputy Speaker of Norwegian Parliament Mr Per Kristian Foss at Norwegian Parliament.

The deputy speaker explained unanimous support of Norway’s self rulings parties and opposition parties on Myanmar’s reform process and parliament’s activities. The President also expressed thanks for Norway’s support on Myanmar’s reforms and explained democratization processes with three estates and reform processes.

The President explained Chairman of International and Defence Affairs Standing Committee of Norwegian Parliament Ms Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide and members. The committee chairman said that Norwegian parliamentarians were taking keen interest in Myanmar’s democratization process and economic reforms.

Norway welcomed Myanmar’s progress. She asked Myanmar’s future reform processes and measures to surmount the challenges. The President for his part replied that implementation of all-inclusiveness political process for peace and stability and rule of law and holding political talks with national races armed groups for eternal peace. The President explained the questions raised by the members on constitutional affairs, resources allocation with national races minority and measures for development of health sector.

Afterwards, the President met Norwegian King His Majesty King Harald, at the Palace. The King hosted a luncheon to the President and party. In the evening, the President met Myanmar families, at House of Literature in Oslo of Norway. At the call, he explained Myanmar’s political and economic reforms.

Myanmar people are regarded as Myanmar national races wherever they live. All Myanmar people (See page 9)
**Local News**

**New school building handed over in Pathein Township**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Feb—**

Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung on 16 February morning delivered an address at the ceremony to clarify construction of the garment factory at Delta Industrial Group in Pathein. Managing Director U Zaw Lin Latt explained the progress of the garment factory being built by Delta Industrial Group. The ceremony to hand over the new school building was held at No 83 Basic Education Post-Primary School in Kanni Village of Pathein Township. The building was jointly constructed by Ayeyawady Region Government and Great Father Land Construction and Decoration Co Ltd. Regional Minister for Social Affairs Daw Khin Saw Mu, Region Education Officer U Soe Myint, Pathein District Deputy Commissioner U Aye Maung Kyi, Pathein Township Administrator U Chit Ko Ko and Chairman of the company U Kyaw Myint formally opened the building. The Chief Minister then viewed round the building. The chairman of the company handed over documents related to the building to Headmistress Daw Naw Freda.

**Yangon, 28 Feb—**

The anniversary celebration of the Day Care Centre of Aged Surgeons Supporting Group of Myanmar Medical Association was held at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association on 18 February morning. On the occasion, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Chairman of MMA Prof Dr U Kyaw Myint Naing made speeches. Wellwishers donated K 26.3 million to the group. Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presented sculptures to the contributors to the group.

**Aged doctors hold anniversary celebration**

**Loans to be disbursed for rural development tasks**

**Yangon, 28 Feb—**

The Ministry of Cooperatives plans to disburse K 50 million to each village for contributing towards rural development, said an official of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

“Disbursement of loans is aimed at developing villages and contributing to development undertakings of the villages,” he continued. The loans can be spent on operating small-scale industries, production tasks on a manageable scale and trade activities. Thanks to loans, rural development tasks will gather momentum. Thanks to loans, the rural development tasks will be carried out on a self-reliant basis in coming years. Nowadays, the government is emphasizing construction of inter-village roads and the roads linking urban and rural areas.

That is why rural development tasks will uplift living standard of rural people in the near future.

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**Chin National Race Minister’s Office opened in Kalay**

**Kalay, 28 Feb—**

A ceremony to open the Office of Chin National Race Minister of Sagaing Region was held at No 190/3 on Bandoola Road in Taungzala Ward of Kalay on 19 February morning.

Chin National Race Minister U No Thang Kap made a speech.

The attendees to the ceremony were served with breakfast.

**Living standard improvement for timber workers emphasized**

**Bhamo, 28 Feb—**

Bhamo timber extraction region of Myanmar Timber Enterprise places emphasis on uplifting living standard of timber extraction workers.

A ceremony to open Hsinmin Yadana Library, hand over self-reliant building of Affiliated Basic Education Primary School and present prizes to outstanding students was held at Wema elephant camp in Shwegu Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 16 February.

District Manager of Timber Extraction U Huy Lwin, Assistant Managers U Kyaw Khaing Swe (Heavy Machinary), U Aung Naing Soe (Shwegu) and U Kyaw Tun Min (Bhamo/Mansi), District Education Officer U Naing Hein Kun, Staff Officer Daw Nan Na Mya Win of District Information and Public Relations Department and officials attended the ceremony.

On the occasion, the school building constructed by Myat Noe Thu Co was handed over to the Ministry of Education. Then, officials presented prizes to outstanding students and opened the library.

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**Union Cup Games Dates and Venues for Sports Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nos</th>
<th>sport categories</th>
<th>Event Period</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Track and field</td>
<td>3-3-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 27-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Badminton Training Hall (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>TC-1 Badminton Training Hall (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
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<td>TC-1, Basketball Training Ground (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Physical fitness</td>
<td>12-2-2013 - 16-2-2013</td>
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<td>MCC (Yangon, Thingyangun Township)</td>
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<td>TC-1 boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Chess</td>
<td>26-2-2013 - 2-3-2013</td>
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<td>Gold Camp (mess hall) (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Cycling (Cross Country)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 2-3-2013</td>
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<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
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<td>Cycling (Down Hill)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Cycling (BMX)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Cycling (Road Race)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Cycling training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>TC-1 Cycling training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Football (Men)</td>
<td>20-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Pinlaung road/ Taunggya village and Leinli bridge</td>
<td>Pinlaung road/ Taunggya village and Leinli bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Football (Women)</td>
<td>20-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)/ Paunglaung ground (Pyinmana Township)</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)/ Paunglaung ground (Pyinmana Township)</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 2-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Taekwondo training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>TC-1 Taekwondo training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>Tennis</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 2-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>TC-1 Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Pancek Silat</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 2-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Martial Arts training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
<td>TC-2 Martial Arts training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Traditional Boxing (Muay)</td>
<td>3-3-2013 - 5-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>TC-1 Boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>27-2-2013 - 1-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Volleyball training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>TC-1 Volleyball training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 2-3-2013</td>
<td>Paunglaung Gymnasium (Pyinmana)</td>
<td>Paunglaung Gymnasium (Pyinmana)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Wushu</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Wushu training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
<td>TC-2 Wushu training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>4-3-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Paunglaung gym (Pyinmana)</td>
<td>Paunglaung gym (Pyinmana)</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
<td>7-3-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WORLD**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**UN Security Council asks for report on possible Mali peacekeepers**

In a city lived in for seven millennia, it may take more than two years of civil war to put a full stop to the genteel round of dinner parties and walks in the park for the affluent folk of downtown Damascus. But from out in the grim suburbs, rebels incensed at their prosperous neighbors’ passivity lob in more bombs and President Bashar al-Assad’s forces make their presence ever more heavily felt around his stronghold, disrupting comfortable old routines and setting fear gnawing at Damascenes’ cocoon of civilization.

Many feel trapped between an unloved authority in the form of the 43-year-old Assad dynasty and hungry revolutionaries at the gates, who resent the city’s privileged lifestyle. Though fighting has turned parts of the outer sprawl of the capital of more than 1.5 million into an urban battlefield, especially since major rebel advances last summer, and though some 70,000 Syrians have been killed since protests began two years ago, central areas of Damascus long remained untouched.

But that is changing as frontlines encroach and as troops and the shabiha militias loyal to Assad reinforce the garrison around his power base. Noticeable too is how people who have fled homes in the suburbs have been camping in downtown parks. Then last week three car bombs exploded in central Damascus, killing dozens. Hours later, mortars fell on the wealthiest district of Maliki, where dozens of high-ranking government officials and the prosperous merchant class live.

**US Senate approves Lew as Treasury chief**

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The US Senate on Wednesday confirmed Jack Lew as President Barack Obama’s new Treasury secretary, putting the former White House chief of staff in the middle of political brawls over the government’s budget.

Lew’s confirmation was backed Lew 71-26, with all 53 Democrats voting in favour.

Lew’s most pressing task will be to find a compromise to lessen the economic blow from $85 billion in government spending cuts set to kick in on Friday.

But two more dead lines will quickly follow. Funds for most government operations expire on 27 March, and the US government is expected to hit its legal borrowing limit on 19 May, setting the stage for a default unless an agreement can be secured to raise the debt ceiling again.

Lew was Obama’s chief of staff before the president named him to succeed Timothy Geithner at the Treasury, and has spent much of his career in Washington service. He was previously an economic advisor to the current coalition,” said one senator.

**Japanese gov’t proposes Kuroda as new BOJ governor**

TOKYO, 28 Feb — The Japanese government Thursday proposed to the parliament the appointment of Haruhiko Kuroda, president of the Asian Development Bank, as new governor of the Bank of Japan (BOJ).

The government also nominated the 70-year-old Gakushuin University professor Kikuo Iwata and the BOJ Executive Director Hiroshi Nakao, 59, as deputy governors of the Japanese central bank.

The appointment must be approved by both chambers of the Diet and the government is seeking to hold a vote on the nominations on 14 March in the lower house and 15 March in the upper house.

Kuroda, 68, advocates bold monetary easing policy and served as vice financial minister for international affairs for more than three years.

Both Kuroda and Iwata said they supported the two percent inflation target introduced by the central bank, adding the goal should be achieved in about two years.

The current BOJ governor Masaki Shiraoka announced earlier this month that he will step down along with his deputies before his five-year term expires on 8 April.

Soldiers from Niger patrol in an open field in Gao on 27 Feb, 2013.

**Battling a scandal, Britain’s deputy PM under pressure in vote**

LONDON, 28 Feb — Fewer than 100,000 resi dents of an English town that hardly anyone outside Britain has heard of will vote on Thursday in an election that could help determine the political fate of the country’s deputy prime minister and, ultimately, its government.

The poll to choose a member of parliament for Eastleigh may prove make-or-break for Nick Clegg’s leadership of the Liberal Democrats, the junior member of Britain’s two-party coalition.

“Most by-elections are events of only fleeting interest. Some are sufficiently dramatic to linger a while in the memory. Only a few truly matter. Eastleigh could be one of these,” Peter Kellner, the president of YouGov, the pollster, said on Wednesday, during last-minute campaigning in Eastleigh, Clegg predicted his party was “on the cusp of a great victory”.

Many Liberal Democrat supporters have become disillusioned with their party’s alliance with the Conservatives, arguing it has betrayed core values on the altar of political expediency. Much of that criticism has been directed at Clegg.

“If the Tories do win, then we may well look back in years to come as the contest that marked the beginning of the end of the current coalition,” said YouGov’s Kellner.

Most opinion polls show Clegg’s party the narrow favourite to win, with the Conservatives running a close second and UKIP third. But its lead in the polls—5 percent—is within the margin of error and a last-minute swing in favour of the Conservatives could rob it of victory. The election comes at a time when Clegg’s leadership of his leftist party, without whom the rightist Conservatives cannot govern or pass legislation, also faces specific pressures.—Reuters

Britain’s deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg (2nd L) arrives to take part in a phone-in show at a radio station in central London on 27 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Elegant Damascus, besieged by both sides

In a city jolted off Vanuatu

6.1-magnitude quake hits Vanuatu

HONG KONG, 28 Feb — An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted off Vanuatu islands at 03:09:44 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 15.10 km, was initially determined to be at 17.7706 degrees south latitude and 167.3409 degrees east longitude.

The quake happened at 2:09:44 pm local time with epicenter locating 102 km west from Port Vila, the capital of the South Pacific islands country. —Xinhua

A man walks at the damaged Harasta area that was caused by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in Damascus on 25 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

UN Security Council asks for report on possible Mali peacekeepers

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The UN Security Council will ask UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to report by the end of March on the possibility of creating a peacekeeping force for Mali, French UN envoy Gerard Araud said on Wednesday.

France began a military offensive earlier this month to drive out Islamist fighters, who had hijacked a revolt by Malian Tuareg rebels and seized two-thirds of the West African country. Paris said Mali’s vast desert North was in danger of becoming a springboard for extremist attacks on the region and the West.

France briefed the 15-member Security Council on the military operation that has also involved African forces.

“W W e ’ r e asking the secretary-general to make a report before the end of March about the modalities, the feasibility, the conditions of the creation of a peacekeeping operation,” Araud told reporters.

“It will be on the basis of this report that ... we will table, eventually, a draft resolution for the creation of the peacekeeping operation, but again it will of course depend on the situation on the ground,” he said.—Reuters

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Huawei presents new mobile products at Barcelona congress

BARCELONA, 28 Feb — Chinese telecommunication company Huawei unveiled its vehicle compatible 3G and 4G communication modules, as well as a 3G mobile hotspot and diagnostic box at the ongoing Mobile World Congress on Tuesday.

These new products represent Huawei’s first telematics solutions products and aim to provide wireless solutions for vehicles independent of weather, landscape and power supply.

“Huawei is excited to welcome in an era of smart vehicles with the availability of products that integrate wireless communications and automotive electronic technologies,” said Kevin Liu, the vice-president of Huawei’s mobile broadband division.

“Huawei’s telematic solutions are designed to enable cars and other transport vehicles to exist in a seamless wireless mobile environment, so that users are truly able to enjoy the benefits brought about by ICT services,” he added. The DA6810 3G WiFi allows vehicles to become interactive and networked, allowing their drivers high-speed internet and audio visual services, while the DA-3100 is useful for insurance companies and car hire companies to locate vehicles, as well as collect information on the condition of the vehicle and driver habits.

It also allows the headlights and horn to be operated through the use of a mobile phone application. Other products unveiled by Huawei include the Ascend P2, the world’s fastest 4G handset. The company’s products and services are sold in over 140 countries with over 20 research and development centres around the world.—Xinhua

PayPal co-founder Levchin launches new mobile

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Feb — Max Levchin, co-founder of online payment giant PayPal, launched a rival business on Tuesday called Affirm that will compete in the crowded but fast-growing mobile payments business. Affirm’s technology helps shoppers complete online purchases more quickly and easily when they are using smart phones and other mobile devices, according to the firm’s website. PayPal, owned by eBay Inc, is the leader in online payments, however, the company is being challenged by a host of start-ups, including Square Inc, that focus on new opportunities and problems created by the boom in mobile commerce.

Affirm is focusing on streamlining the mobile checkout process online, which can involve typing in lots of information, such as an address and card numbers, using a small type pad. Affirm said it has whittled the online buying process down to two taps on a smart phone screen — one to tap the Affirm button on participating merchant websites and a second to confirm the order. Affirm is using Facebook Inc to connect mobile users’ identities, so for first-time users the process includes a step third which involves logging into their Facebook accounts and accepting the Affirm application.—Reuters

C formidable’s letter about DNA discovery to be sold at auction

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — A letter by Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA, outlining the Nobel Prize-winning achievement to his young son is expected to fetch as much as $2 million when it is sold at auction in April, Christie’s said on Tuesday. Crick and James Watson unraveled the double-helix structure and function of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) while working together in Cambridge, England, in 1953. They received the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1962 for their ground-breaking work.

In the seven-page, handwritten letter, Crick, who was 33 years old at the time, described the discovery to his 12-year-old son Michael, who was away at a British boarding school. “When you come home we will show you the model,” he wrote in the letter. Crick went on to say he believed DNA is a code and that the order of the bases (the let ters) makes one gene different from another gene. “In other words we think we have found the basic copying mechanism by which life comes from life. You can understand that we are very excited,” Crick added, before signing the letter, “Lots of love, Daddy.” In his later years Crick was a professor at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. He died in 2004.

The letter, which is being sold by Crick’s son, will be part of the books and manuscripts sale on 10 April. A letter dated 2 Aug, 1939, by physicist Albert Einstein to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt warning him of the potential danger of “the construction of extremely powerful bombs” through nuclear fission sold for more than $2 million at auction in 2002.—Reuters

Cablevision sues Viacom over fees for low-rated networks

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — Cablevision Systems Corp has accused Viacom Inc in an antitrust lawsuit of forcing it to pay for more than a dozen low-rated cable networks in order to get access to Viacom’s more popular channels such as Nickelodeon, MTV and Comedy Central. The case represents the latest flare-up in the relationships between distributors and programme makers. Industry observers will be watching to see if the lawsuit could disrupt the model of selling bundles of cable channels to operators, a common practice employed by Viacom and its media company peers in the $97.6 billion cable industry.

Viacom effectively forces Cablevision’s customers to pay for and receive little-watched channels in order to get the channels they actually want,” Cablevision said in a statement. In response to the lawsuit, Viacom said that “these arrangements have been upheld by a number of federal courts and on appeal.” The two companies signed a long-term programming agreement in December 2012 for Cablevision to carry Viacom’s networks for an undisclosed sum.

Cablevision CEO James Dolan is seen at a news conference in New York, on 22 Nov, 2010.—Reuters

Department’s 600,000 users of smartphones, computer tablets and other mobile devices to rapidly share interactive and networked, visual services, while the DA-3100 is useful for insurance companies and car hire companies to locate vehicles, as well as collect information on the condition of the vehicle and driver habits.

Department’s 600,000 users of smartphones, computer tablets and other mobile devices to rapidly share classified and protected data using the latest commercial technologies. The system aims to quickly enable the deputy chief information officer. That sets the stage for an intensified struggle for Pentagon customers among BlackBerry devices, Apple’s iPhones or iPads, and units using Google’s Android platform. The Department currently has more than 600,000 mobile device users, including 470,000 with BlackBerries, 41,000 who have Apple operating systems, and 8,700 who use Android devices. The new plan will result in the use of a much wider variety of mobile devices across the military. Currently most devices using Apple and Google platforms are in pilot or test programmes, officials said. Few commercial devices are used for classified communications, whereas the new system aims to bolster security of commercially available devices so they can be used for classified information, they said. Wheeler said the implementation plan aimed to ensure that mobile devices, wireless infrastructure and mobile applications remain “reliable, secure and flexible enough to keep up with the fast-changing technologies of today.” He said the department has a broad range of mobile device users, from the chairman and planners on the Joint Chiefs of Staff to policymakers and soldiers on the battlefield, all of whom would be affected by the implementation plan.

The military services would decide which devices to buy and provide to users based on need. The system would not initially enable an individual service member to purchase their own mobile devices and use them on the Pentagon’s networks, but that is a longer-range goal if security can be assured, officials said.

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PayPal co-founder Levchin launches new mobile

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Feb — Max Levchin, co-founder of online payment giant PayPal, launched a rival business on Tuesday called Affirm that will compete in the crowded but fast-growing mobile payments business. Affirm’s technology helps shoppers complete online purchases more quickly and easily when they are using smart phones and other mobile devices, according to the firm’s website. PayPal, owned by eBay Inc, is the leader in online payments, however, the company is being challenged by a host of start-ups, including Square Inc, that focus on new opportunities and problems created by the boom in mobile commerce.

Affirm is focusing on streamlining the mobile checkout process online, which can involve typing in lots of information, such as an address and card numbers, using a small type pad. Affirm said it has whittled the online buying process down to two taps on a smart phone screen — one to tap the Affirm button on participating merchant websites and a second to confirm the order. Affirm is using Facebook Inc to connect mobile users’ identities, so for first-time users the process includes a step third which involves logging into their Facebook accounts and accepting the Affirm application.—Reuters

A page from the PayPal website is seen in Singapore on 21 July, 2011.—Reuters
Advanced breast cancer inching up in young women

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — More young women are being diagnosed with advanced, metastatic breast cancer than were three decades ago, a new study suggests — although the overall rate of cancers in that group is still small. One in 173 women will develop breast cancer before she turns 40, researchers said, and the prognosis tends to be worse for younger patients. In the new study, a team led by Dr. Rebecca Johnson at Seattle Children’s Hospital and the University of Washington found the rate of metastatic breast cancer, in particular, rose about two percent each year between 1976 and 2009 among younger women.

“We think that the likelihood is that since this change has been so marked over just a couple of decades, that it’s something external, a modifiable lifestyle-related risk factor or perhaps an environmental toxic exposure, but we don’t know what,” Johnson said. One possibility is that overeating and lack of exercise are driving up early-life metastatic breast cancer rates, Johnson added. Or, the use of hormonal birth control could play a role, she said. But Johnson also pushed for more research into the potential effects of hormones in meat or plastic in bottles, for example. Johnson and her colleagues analyzed data from cancer registries run by the National Cancer Institute.

As expected, they found that the number of early breast cancer diagnoses increased among middle-aged and older women during the study period, likely due to widespread screening.

The only other change in cancer incidence was among the youngest women, between ages 25 and 39. In that group, the number of women diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer — which has spread to the bones, brain or lungs — rose from one in 11,500 in 1976 to one in 34,000 in 2009. More of the increase appeared to be in cancers that are sensitive to estrogen, which is “comparatively fortunate,” the authors note, because those cancers are somewhat more responsive to treatment and could have longer average survival rates in general.

Dyanavax may have to repitch hepatitis B vaccine for smaller market

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — Dyanavax Technologies Inc may need to repitch its hepatitis B vaccine for a smaller patient population, after US health regulators declined to approve the vaccine for adults — an estimated $700 million global market. The US Food and Drug Administration said the safety data provided by the company was insufficient to support an approval of Heplisav — Dyanavax’s most advanced clinical candidate.

The company said in a statement earlier on Monday that the FDA had indicated its willingness to discuss a more restricted use of the vaccine. It said it expects to meet with the FDA within six weeks to discuss Heplisav’s approval. The rejection, which potentially delays the market entry of a faster-acting and less frequently needed vaccine for the liver-attacking infection, sent the company’s shares down 37 percent to $1.87 on Monday, its lowest in more than a year. However, Dyanavax said on a conference call with analysts that it may not need to conduct additional tests to assess the safety of its vaccine.

“It isn’t going to be an instantaneous turnaround. We are going to have to do some work and assemble (the data) and make sure that it fits the FDA’s requirement,” Dyanavax’s president and CEO analyst Phil Nadeau said on the call. Cowen & Co analyst Phil Nadeau said the approval of Heplisav within a limited population may still be possible late this year or the first half of the next year.

Value of calcium supplements put in doubt

Beijing, 28 Feb — Adding calcium and vitamin D supplements to daily diet doesn’t prevent broken bones but can increase the risk of kidney stones, according to US Preventive Services Task Force on Monday.

It’s a confusing message that for years, calcium and vitamin D supplements have been widely considered an insurance policy against osteoporosis, with little side effect. “Regrettably, we don’t have as much information as we would like to have about a substance that has been around for a long time and we used to think we understood,” said Dr. Virginia Moyer of the Baylor College of Medicine, who heads the task force. There’s not enough evidence to tell if the high-dose calcium and vitamin D supplements would prevent bone fractures if taken before menopause, or if they can strengthen men’s bones, the task force concluded. Calcium and vitamin D work together, and humans must get both nutrients to build and maintain strong bones in lifetime. But the body also produces vitamin D from sunshine and gets other nutrients from various foods such as orange juice, milk, yogurt, cheese, salmon and cereals.

Specialists advise getting these nutrients as much as possible from a good diet. These recommendations aren’t for people at high risk of weak bones, including older adults who have previously broken a bone and are at risk for doing so. And those people should consult a doctor, said a bone specialist. — Xinhua

JPMorgan to cut up to 17,000 jobs by end of 2014

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) said on Tuesday that it plans to cut 17,000 jobs by the end of 2014, representing about 6.6 percent of the company’s overall workforce, as the bank sheds staff that helped it deal with bad home loans. The bank is optimistic that it can generate record income this year and is planning to add 4,000 employees in commercial and investment banking and credit cards to help it win business, bank executives said at an investor conference.

That hiring will be more than offset by job cuts in areas like mortgage servicing and retail banking, where the bank is positioning for a recovering housing market and new forms of branch banking. The net impact of the additions and cuts will be 17,000 fewer employees on the bank’s payrolls. The job cuts reflect the pressure that banks are under, even as the US housing market and overall economy show signs of recovery. Many banks are looking to automate more of their businesses to make their staff more productive and improve profits. For example, at JPMorgan’s branches, where it plans to cut about 6,000 tellers and other employees, the bank's cashiers customers will use automated teller machines for every day transactions and that remaining staff can focus on higher-margin activities like selling wealth management services.

The entrance to JPMorgan Chase’s international headquarters on Park Avenue is seen in New York on 2 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

Brain cells may survive organisms

BEIJING, 28 Feb — Brain cells can live longer than the organisms in which they reside, according to a study in Monday’s journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers from University of Pavia in Italy took neurons, or brain cells, from mice and implanted them into the brains of about 60 rat fetuses. The study outcome showed that the neurons transplanted from mice were still alive when the rats died. That means it’s possible the cells could have survived even longer if they were transplanted into a longer-lived species. The finding is good news for life extension enthusiasts.

But it doesn’t mean humans could live forever, even if brain cells may be proved to live longer than expectation. Scientists still don’t understand exactly what causes people to age, said study co-author Dr. Lorenzo Magrassi, a neurosurgeon at the University of Pavia.

Xinhua
Europe still needs reforms: Van Rompuy

BUDAPEST, 28 Feb — European Council President Herman Van Rompuy on Wednesday called for continued economic reform now that the European Union is going upward after hitting the bottom in 2012.

Van Rompuy made the remarks at a joint news conference here with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban following a meeting between the two leaders.

Van Rompuy warned that this was not the time to sit back and relax despite the positive results of crisis management. Instead, gradual and consistent steps have to be taken towards establishing a true economic union among European Union members, he said.

A stronger economy means greater competitiveness, he said, adding that establishment of a bank union could help to attain long-term growth and increase employment.

He deemed job creation as the best way to ensure the welfare of European citizens.

Given Hungary is not an eurozone member, Orban called on the European Council to be more willing to accept and understand those of Hungary’s economic measures that might seem unusual to eurozone countries.

These measures, he said, included tax reforms and measures to improve competitiveness.

While hoping Hungary’s economic growth to exceed expectations, Orban said that Van Rompuy had always been open to the measures Hungary has taken to stabilize the economy and shift it to a growth pattern.

Calling the Council President an important friend, Orban said Hungary could be counted on to support bank union, and monetary and economic coordination within the EU.

Van Rompuy, serving his second term as Council President, has been acclaimed by some as a consensus-builder.—Xinhua

Obama to meet top lawmakers on spending cuts

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — US President Barack Obama is scheduled to meet top congressional leaders for talks on government spending cuts this Friday, White House spokesman Jay Carney said on Wednesday.

Obama has invited US welcomes Iran’s interest in nuclear talks proposal

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The US State Department on Wednesday welcomed that Iran was interested in the proposal presented by the world powers at the nuclear talks in Kazakhstan.

“The process will continue, we have to see how it’s going to play out over the coming weeks, but we welcome that, you know, Iran was interested in our ideas,” said State Department spokesperson Patrick Ventrell at a regular briefing.

However, he did not give details of the proposal, only characterizing it as “updated” and “serious.”

Describing the talks as “useful,” Ventrell stressed that now the “onus is absolutely on Iran.”

“We’d like to see them to take some of the concrete steps they need to come in line with the international communities concerns or come in line with their obligations quite frankly,” he told reporters.

The two-day talks between Iran and the P5+1 powers — Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany, over Tehran’s disputed nuclear programme concluded on Wednesday in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

World powers attending the talks said Wednesday that the meeting had produced positive results.

Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili expressed optimism Wednesday about the outcome of the nuclear talks, saying that the world powers’ attitude toward Iran’s nuclear issue was “more realistic.”

In Iran and the world powers agreed to hold an expert-level meeting in Istanbul, Turkey on 17 and 18 March, and another high-ranking meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 5 and 6 April.

Xinhua

Kenya’s security agencies, electoral body say ready for polls

NAIROBI, 28 Feb — Kenya’s security agencies and the electoral body charged with overseeing the March 4 general elections said on Wednesday they were fully prepared for the exercise.

Briefing President Mwai Kibaki on their preparations, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) chairman Isaac Hassan and the Inspector General of Police David Kimaiyo said adequate measures are in place to make next week’s polls successful.

During the meeting, Kaimayo said he has deployed a contingent of heavily armed police officers to the country’s major hotspots as precautionary measures to avert chaos following the heated political campaigns in the area.

The mobilization of 99,000 security officials has begun to all parts of the country and 85 persons have been arrested for committing various election offenses,” the police chief said.

The Inspector General informed the meeting that investigation has been launched and action will be taken against those behind the distribution of negative leaflets in parts of the country.

Putin presses for comprehensive military upgrade

MOSCOW, 28 Feb — Russian military science should be comprehensively developed and advanced to meet modern challenges, President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

“We need to develop leading scientific schools which work on theories of building and using armed forces, to support military-scientific centres, including those creating unmanned drones and combat robots,” Putin told a meeting at the Defence Ministry.

Colombian police capture head of drug trafficking gang

BOGOTA, 28 Feb — Colombia’s police announced on Wednesday the capture of a leader and eight members of one of the country’s largest drug trafficking groups.

Alessandro Beltran, alias “Alex,” was arrested in central Colombia during a national police operation. He is reportedly the current leader of the Los Rastrojos gang, which police said has participated in several massacres that left 45 people dead.

The police said the success of the operation was the strongest blow yet against the organized crime group that operates mainly in the coffee Triangle region.

This criminal group is responsible for drug trafficking activities, black-mailing and assassinations in the departments (states) of Risaralda, Caldas, Quindio... and of using international routes to ship drugs to Panama, Honduras and the Dominican Republic,” the police said.

“Alex,” who started out as the right-hand man of the group’s former leaders who are currently in US jail, is accused of trafficking between two and three tons of cocaine a month to Central America and the Caribbean.—Xinhua
Norway’s strong support for peace process under way...

(Continued from page 16)

...deterred due to the sanctions from members of international community. Norway ensures support and trust by writing off all the money Myanmar owed to Norway in our reform process help fast greatly in our negotiation with other member countries of Paris Club. And as a result they agree to write off significant portion of debt we owed. Your commitment to our environments indentify ways the best protect our natural environment is also great significant. Myanmar and Norway may different in climate and culture. But we share a few similarities. We are both nations with trimediuos natural resources, especially in energy sector. We should learn from you the ways in which we can manage these natural resources to the benefits of our people. Both countries are relatively small. But they have times to fight for independence. After independence, we both carefully managed our relations with bigger and more powerful neighbors. And I know Norway was in 19th century among the poorest economy in Europe. Today you have become one of the richest countries. Understanding your history and success will be key for our success.

Q: How would you expect the success of peace talks with different minorities and how would you continue the work on it in Myanmar. What is your assessment of the talks with minorities and what will be the results?

President: We can roughly say that we have more than one hundred of national races in the country. An then we have and we gain our independence in 1948. Before independence from the British colonial administration, they adopted the divide and rule policy in the country. As a result, those people who lived in the hilly regions distrust those who lived in the plain areas. As a result, they held arms fighting against the successive governments for the last 65 years. This is why we can turn up the longest armed conflict in the world. The successive government tried to end this armed conflicts and they have achieved success to a certain extent. But there is still conflict and problems of the community. Politically we have by the time our government assumed office altogether eleven armed groups in the country. So longest the existence of the armed conflicts we cannot address the issue of the development of the country. We cannot address the issue of socioeconomic development. So when our government assumed state’s responsibility, we build up addressing the armed conflicts issue, one of the top priorities. So in my impetus to armed conflicts, we laid down the very basic principles so we can build trust with the national ethnic armed groups. So it is like we are living in the country it is like a family living in the same house. It is of no use for fighting against the members of the family. In fact the fighting in the country has lasted for 65 years. So it is our desire to end this fighting. — The loss of the people on the side of the people and the loss of the government’s side are in fact the loss of the country. It is of no use to continue this path. So now during our time we have concluded the peace agreement with 10 out of 11 groups. Only one is left in the northern part of the country. We had started engagement and have talks with this group. Finally, this region is almost stopped. Political dialogue will be held soon. We will strive to reach a stage of holding the peace talks, stopping the attack from the government side. We have a parliament formed with national races and then we have different political parties. Continued political dialogues are to be made in the parliament for a lasting peace. Rights and protection of national races are enshrined in the State Constitution, but we don’t have the detailed description about that. We are working for the legislation for the detailed rights and protection of national races so that we can implement the law. Therefore, Q: Mr Prime Minister. What is your future plan between Myanmar and Norway.

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning. The cordial discussions focused on cooperation between the governments and armed forces of Myanmar and China, ensuring peace and stability at common border, narcotics eradication in Mekong basin, and continued implementation of border management agreement.

Also present at the call were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Xiong Shaowei and officials.

Second Japan Festival 2013 9-11 March

YANGON, 28 Feb—The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO Yangon) will organize the second Japan Festival 2013 for the second time at Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC), here, from 9 to 11 March. The festival will introduce quality Japan brand products and Japanese traditions to the people at the single place with the aim of uplifting the Myanmar-Japan trade without any benefit. Over 100 Japanese companies will display their products at the festival, comprising electronics, machinery, motorcycles, car, personal goods, household goods, pharmaceuticals, solar energy-used products, toilet products and cosmetics, foodstuffs. A Japanese star J Pop Group Berryz Kobo will entertain performance at noon on 10 March at the festival. The separate shuttle buses will run for visitors to the festival free of charge from the side of Maha Bandoola Park to Myanmar Convention Centre once every three days. Some bus line will change their routes to MCC from their ordinary routes.—Myanma Alinn

Gas pipeline completed by 70 per cent

HPA-AN, 28 Feb—Construction of Kanbauk-Myainggale-Hlawga gas pipeline has completed by 70 per cent, said an official of the project. Laying of gas pipeline was delayed due to passing the coastal regions and high level of the sea. Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise has been laying the gas pipelines as of year 2000. The gas pipeline is being installed with 40 feet long and 30 inches diameter pipes made in Republic of Korea. The whole length of pipelines will be 180 miles. —Myanma Alinn

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chinese Ambassador

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

Thai tourists conclude visits in Myanmar

KYOONDW, 28 Feb—The Thai-Myanmar goodwill convoy, under the arrangements of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services, entered Myawaddy from Mae Sot of Thailand as of 18 February.

An 18-car convoy carrying 49 Thai tourists led by Liaison Officer Assistant Manager Daw Mi Kyon Khaing of the service visited Myawady, Hpa-an, Yangon and Thanbyzin. On their way back, the tourists paid homage to Kyainkhtyo Pagoda.

On 23 February, they arrived in Mawlamyine of Mon State and proceeded to Hpa-an. After that, they stopped over on Pontoon in passing Gyawng River at 11.15 am and enjoyed scenic beauties of Jyaing Suspension Bridge and natural beauty. They took documentary photos.

The visitors raised questions for the pontoon. Managing Director L Tin Soe of Myanmar Woodpecker (Yangon) Construction Co Ltd replied to their questions. The visitors left there at 11.45 am and returned to via Mae Sot via Myawady. —Myanma Alinn

NATIONAL

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NATIONAL

Promoting the culture of democracy and national harmony

As Myanmar is in the process of transition to democracy, promoting the culture of democracy and national harmony is of utmost importance. Democratic culture, according to Jack Balkin, is a culture in which all citizens can participate and feel that they have a stake, and unjust social privileges and status hierarchies have been disestablished. And national harmony is a nation-state in which people from different racial, religious, professional or class backgrounds are living peacefully in mutual trust as a society.

In a measure of its resolve towards this end, the government has embarked upon a series of reforms such as expansion of civil and political space allowing civil society to function freely, lifting of restriction on media, releasing political prisoners, creating an inclusive national identity, developing conciliatory discourse and improving state capacity to adjust the way the government functions in the democratic setting. Moreover, high on its agenda are acknowledging and accepting differences, public grievances, peace process, poverty reduction, power-sharing, wealth-sharing, security and environmental issues.

Meanwhile, civil and political societies sharing common with the government have extensively engaged in promoting social capital and solving free rider problems, exposing societal problems, ensuring NGOs to engage in activities in different parts of the country, networking among different civil society groups and initiating political education and participatory approach.

As the introduction of democracy in a country is a tough process and takes time, the government, civil society and international partners are to exercise restraint, be rational and wise in promoting the culture of democracy and national harmony. Only then, will it be possible for the country to march towards a democratic nation.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw IRC receives UNDP and CIIS delegates

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received a delegation led by Mr Edin Elgsaether of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Hall-1 of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2 pm today.

They had a cordial discussion on holding seminars and workshop on capacity building for parliaments. He also met with Vice President of China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) Mr Ruan Zongze and party at the same venue at 4 pm today and exchanged views on current democracy reform process, parliamentary and MP’s roles.

Also present at the call were Public Accounts Committee Secretary U Maung Toe, Hluttaw Rights Myat and U Htay Myint, Secretaries Dr Soe Yin and U Maung Toe, Hluttaw representatives and officials.

Government will simultaneously open spaces...

(from page 1)

delivered to conflict zones which are in urgent need of supplies. I would like to inform the people that not only ceasefire but also political dialogue could be reached when peace talks with national race armed groups including KIO/KIA will be held in the not-too-distant future. Cooperation will be made to move towards a national level meeting through the political dialogue.

We have to accept the honest truth that we are facing greater challenges than any other countries because we have to negotiate with about 15 armed groups at the same time. Despite difficulties and challenges, the enthusiasm and genuine willingness to overcome them are the most important things. We will simultaneously open spaces for negotiation of individual organization or citizen in the peace process. On 7 February, we formed a scrutiny committee of remaining prisoners with the representatives from the government, the civil societies and political parties to enable them do their bits in shaping the future of the nation. The committee will work transparently. The committee will organize family reunion of the prisoners imprisoned for their different ideologies by the then administration, to help them enjoy their freedom like any other citizens and participate in future reforms.

As regards development of telecom industry, you will all be informed of the efforts of our government since taking office.

Plans are under way to sale low-cost mobile sim cards in coming April which can help extend current communication infrastructures. In addition to the short-term programme, constant efforts would be made for systematic development of communication sector nationwide. These projects will materialize within one or two years.

Efforts are being made for creating more job opportunities for youths. There are a number of graduated youths, those who have no access to the universities and those who have completed the grade-11. For youth’s job creation, our country needs lots of industrial zones, workshops, factories, hotel and tourism industry and mechanized farm lands. Soon, foreign investments would flow into the country. I would like you to make cooperation with the government to avoid impediment to foreign investors.

Success of reform processes relies on local strength. Our government is making efforts to shape a modern international relation as it is impossible for a country to stand alone due to the globalization.

The aim of my tour to European countries brings necessary assistance for our reform processes.

Esteemed people,

I strongly believe that peace and national reconciliation processes can be implemented as quickly as possible thanks to trust building with leaders of national races armed groups and strong desires of the government, Hluttaw, political parties, economic and social forces, civil society organizations, Tatmadaw and all people. All to join hands in these processes.

With the development, the socio-political life of the people becomes variable. In conclusion, I would urge you to be in harmony with swift and dynamic reforms. And each and every body needs to have the abilities for forgiveness, mutual understandings, sympathy and cooperation.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Vice President for Asia of US Chamber of Commerce Ms Tami Overby.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives US businessmen

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a group of businessmen led by Vice President for Asia of US Chamber of Commerce Ms Tami Overby at the Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, this morning.

At the call, they frankly exchanged views on further strengthening relations between the two Hluttaw and the governments of Myanmar and the US, democratic reform process of Myanmar, close cooperation for successful implementation of political and economic reforms, cooperation in financial and trade tasks and raising interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee chairmen U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw, U Thant Zin Win, U Hla Myint Oo, U Thuraein Zaw, U T Khan Committee Secretary Dr Soe Yin, members of International Relations Committee U Aung Kyaw Soe and U Tun Aung Kyaw and officials from Hluttaw Office.

Yangon Universities Boat Race wraps up

YANGON, 28 Feb—The Yangon Universities’ Boat Race was held at the universities’ boat club on Inya Road, here, from 25 to 27 February.

Yangon Institute of Economics secured the championship shield.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shares shakes hands with Vice President for Asia of US Chamber of Commerce Ms Tami Overby.—MNA

Yangon Universities Boat Race wraps up

MNA

Yangon Institute of Education (B) won the first prize in the four oars men’s event and double sculls men’s event. Yangon Institute of Economics (A) secured the first prize in the single scull men’s event. Yangon West University stood first in the women’s double scull event and women’s four oar event.

Thant Zin Win—NLM
It needs to seek solutions in a peaceful way...

(from page 1)

have same attitudes towards the development of country and nation-loving spirit even though they have to live in other countries. It needed to join hands in nation’s reform processes based on nation-loving spirit though people have different views. Diverse view was the nature of democracy. It needed to seek the solutions in a peaceful way. He invited Myanmar nationals to have a hand in nation building endeavours.

No green light to more hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, except one for retired service personnel

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Feb—Today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session started with the oath-taking of newly-appointed Chairman and members of the Constitution Tribunal of the Union before Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Win Myint welcomed the re-emergence of the Constitution Tribunal of the Union, saying that his documented proposal seeking the interpretation of the constitution tribunal would be continued to carry out.

Next, Hluttaw sought the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives on the projects stated in National Planning Bill for 2013-14 fiscal year. The amendment of Health Promotion Board for the projects stated in National Planning Bill—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Mr. Li Junhua, Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, who has completed his tour of duty, at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 4 pm today.

The meeting focused on cementing amity and bilateral relation between the two countries.

Also present at the call together with the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw were Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee for International Relations Col Maung Maung Htoo, Chairman of the Committee for ASEAN Political and Security Community U Nyunt Tin, Chairperson of the Committee for NGOs and INGOs Affairs Daw Khin Yu Kyi and officials of Hluttaw Office. —MNA

In an interview with Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mi Myint Thaw, she called for greater coordination between region/state officials and parliamentarians in the interest of the local people as the latter were playing a role in bridging the gap of connectivity between the departments concerned.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Nann Wah Nu, while giving an interview to NLM newscrew, called on NGOs and INGOs to organize necessary training courses, workshops, seminars and paper-reading sessions to be able to heighten peace awareness and to bring about more understandings among the stakeholders before political dialogue between the government and national race armed groups, warning about a profound impact of a lack of political tolerance on political dialogue.—NLM
Chinese team in Egypt to deal with aftermath of balloon crash

CAIRO, 28 Feb— A Chinese Foreign Ministry work party, arrived in Egypt on Wednesday to deal with the aftermath of a deadly hot air balloon crash, in the wake of nine Hong Kong tourists dying in the tragedy in the country. Meanwhile, officers from the Hong Kong Immigration Department and the tourist company’s staff members also flied to Egypt to help.

Over 360 mlh people live with hearing loss: WHO

VIENNA, 28 Feb— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday stressed Iran should gain the confidence of the international community over its disputed nuclear programme.

In addition, Salehi told reporters that he was optimistic an agreement could be reached in the negotiations between Iran and the six countries, namely France, Germany, the United States, China, Russia and Britain, which ended without a breakthrough but agreed to meet again.

Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili expressed optimism on Wednesday in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, after the two-day nuclear talks, saying that the world powers’ attitude toward Iran’s nuclear issue was “more realistic.”

The two-day talks between Iran and the P5+1 countries concluded on Wednesday in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Jalili said after the meeting that some of the West’s offers, including the easing of sanctions “were more realistic compared to what they had in the past.”

In the talks, Iran urged that the steps to build confidence of both sides should be taken simultaneously and in a balanced way, so that Iran’s nuclear rights could be preserved, he said.

Over 360 million people live with hearing loss in the world, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated on Wednesday.

In the report prepared for International Ear Care Day on 3 March, WHO said one in three people over the age of 65, or a total of 165 million people worldwide, lives with hearing loss, and another 32 million affected by hearing loss are children under the age of 15.

Shelly Chadha of the WHO’s Department of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness said about half of all cases of hearing loss are easily preventable while many can be treated through early diagnosis and suitable interventions such as surgically implanted hearing devices.

However, she warned that the current production of hearing aids met less than 10 percent of global need.

“The in developing countries, fewer than one out of 40 people who need a hearing aid have one,” Chadha said.—Xinhua

UN chief says Iran should gain world confidence over its disputed atomic plan

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Positive signs show Israel-Turkey ties warming up

JERUSALEM, 28 Feb— Ties between Israel and Turkey have been strained ever since the Israel intercepted the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara in May 2010, however lately there have been signs that an improvement might be in sight.

Last week an Israeli defence contractor Elta exported equipment for four Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircrafts to Turkey, however the equipment was part of the deal Turkey signed with the American company Boeing and Elta is a sub-contractor for Boeing.

Although the news of the export showed an improvement compared to the deadlock of the past two and half years, analysts told Xinhua that there is still a long way to go before relations go back to normal.

“There are definitely several positive signs, especially that the Israeli side is interested in repairing relations, this has been the Israeli position from the start but it needs more serious efforts to repair the relations,” Dr Galia Linden- denstein of the Tel Aviv University told Xinhua on Wednesday.

Prof Dror Ze’evi of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev said that recent improvement can not be seen as reconciliation between Israel and Turkey, instead it’s the realization that the two have a number of common interests in the region.

“Of course Turkish side isn’t very keen on reconciliation right now; in fact it still wants to be portrayed as very tough on Israel for its own internal and Middle Eastern purposes,” Ze’evi said.

“But, it has realized recently that there are many common interests and many things that it somehow needs to coordinate with Israel, chiefly of course being Syria and the Syrian crisis,” he added.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has placed anti-missile system on the Turkish Syrian border and allowed Syrian opposition groups to operate from Turkey, he has been very critical of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad from failing to respond to an Israeli air raid into Syria.—Xinhua

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks to Defence Department employees at the staff meeting after he was sworn in as the new Pentagon chief at the Pentagon, on 27 Feb, 2013. In remarks to Defence Department employees, he deplied the uncertainty brought about by increasing automatics to the defence budget, and promised to do everything in his power to meet those challenges.—Xinhua

BEIJING, 28 Feb— New US Defence Secretary, Chuck Hagel, has been sworn into office at a small, closed-door ceremony at the Pentagon. Afterwards he told military and civilian staff at the Pentagon that he would do his best to be a worthy leader of the nation’s military.

Chuck Hagel, US Defence Secretary, said, “I am proud of the opportunity the President of the United States has given me and the Congress of the United States has given me. And I will tell you that — as I told the President, as I told the Congress — that I will do everything in my power to be the kind of leader that you expect and you deserve; also, the kind of leader the country ex-
HANOI, 28 Feb — Vietnamese lawmakers backed the government’s proposal to allocate over 5.524 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (264 million US dollars) in government bonds to important projects during 2012-2015 period.

The approval was made during the two-day-long 5th session of the National Assembly’s Standing Committee which ended late Tuesday.

The bond will be allocated to three ministries of transport, health and agriculture according to the government’s state-run news agency reported on Wednesday.

Accordingly, the three ministries will receive some 927 billion VND (44.4 million dollars) for 2012 projects, the report said.

The money allocated to transport ministry will be used to repair roads in central provinces of Nghe An and Kon Tum.

The health ministry’s fund will be sent to hospitals in northeastern Quan Ninh Province and capital Hanoi while ministry of agriculture and rural development will fund the water and canal system in central Ha Tinh Province.

Visitors watch a model of outdoor climbing shoe during the ISPO BEIJING 2013 in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 Feb, 2013. The four-day exhibition, a leading sports business platform in the Asian region with the participation of 516 brands from 22 countries and regions, opened here on Wednesday.

18 killed, 20 injured in major fire at illegal market in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 28 Feb — At least 18 people were killed and more than 20 others sustained burn injuries in a devastating fire which gutted an illegal paper and plastic market in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata on the wee hours of Wednesday, a senior police official said.

“Some 18 people are confirmed dead in the fire which broke out in the six-storied Surya Sen market-cum-godown at the heart of the city around 3.50 am. The death toll may go up. The injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals where the condition of some are said to be serious,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

Nearly 30 fire tenders took over three hours to bring under control the inferno which authorities have indicated could have been due to an electrical short circuit at an eatery on the first floor of the market building. “However, a probe has been ordered to ascertain the exact cause of the fire,” he said.

Local TV channels showed footage of rescuers trying to bring out those trapped inside the market located at a congested area and smoke billowing out of the windows of the eatery.

The Fire Minister of the eastern state of West Bengal, Jawed Khan told TV channels the market was “illegal” and that local civic authorities had earlier served the shop keepers with an eviction notice.

“The market has only one exit point and those who stayed in the market at night were trapped after the fire broke out,” he said.

State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee visited the spot and surveyed the damage caused by the fire. She also assured strict action against those responsible for the fire.

Similar fires have claimed many lives in the city over the past decade. More than 90 people were killed in December 2011 in a blaze at a hospital in Kolkata while in 2010 nearly 50 people lost their lives in a fire at the historic St Stephen’s Court building on the city’s upmarket Park Street area.

Indonesia’s ruling party reputation tested prior to elections

JAKARTA, 28 Feb — The Democrat Party, Indonesia’s ruling party that ushered Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono seized two-term presidency periods in Southeast Asia’s largest economy is facing crucial months.

The new party’s chairperson of the party, Anas could be a suspect in the case. The agency had also asked the immigration office to slap travel ban against Anas than him prohibited from taking a trip in the next six months.

Yudhoyono seized two-term presidency periods in Southeast Asia’s largest economy is facing crucial months.

President Yudhoyono also ordered the party’s officials across the country to sign integrity pact in order prevent splinter group inside the party, assuring party’s solid integration prior to the conduction of elections in 2014.

Anas involvement in high profile corruption cases was indicated from confessions of other senior Democrat Party’s cadres now serving jail terms after they were proved of committing corruptions in several state projects.

15 killed in Indonesia’s West Java bus crash

JAKARTA, 28 Feb — A tragic crash committed by a bus loaded with pilgrims occurred in Ciloto, Cianjur, West Java shortly before noon on Wednesday, killing 15 people on board and left 12 others injured, a policeman overseeing the crash site said.

Cijaru traffic police chief Dewo Sadewo was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying that 20 of the injured passengers suffer from major injuries while the remaining 12 suffer from lighter one.

He added that 32 survivors were found from the crash. “Most of the injured ones have been evacuated to nearest hospital with part of them were evacuated to larger hospital in Cianjur,” he said. Dewo said that most of the death victims were elder ones.

According to the police, the bus failed to pass through a sharp turn and rammed a gorge that led to the crash. The tourist bus was loaded by pilgrims intending to go to holy place in Cianjur.

Photo taken on 27 Feb, 2013 shows the scenery of fog-shrouded Weihai, a coastal city of east China’s Shandong Province. The central and eastern parts of China still saw fog and haze on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 27 Feb, 2013 shows a couple enjoy the scenery of plum blossoms at the “plum blossom mountain” scenic spot in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province. Plum blossoms began to bloom as temperature raised in Jiangsu.—Xinhua

Police seize Australia’s largest ever “Ice” haul

SYDNEY, 28 Feb — An Australian joint taskforce has seized 585 kg of methamphetamine, known as Ice, worth up to 438 million Australian dollars (44.4 million US dollars) during an operation in Sydney, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said on Friday.

In a joint statement released on Thursday, the AFP said the record Ice haul was seized during a Sydney police executed six search warrants across Sydney suburbs of Regents Park, Bexley North, Wakeley, Canley Heights, Beverly Hills and Ryde.

“This is the largest single seizure of Ice in Australasia’s history and almost doubles the previous record seizure of 300 kilogrammes in July 2012,” the AFP said.

The AFP and New South Wales Police Force arrested a 21-year-old man from Sydney, a 32-year-old Singaporean national and a 51-year-old man from Hong Kong in relation to the seizure on Wednesday, when attempting to take possession of the drugs.

The three are expected to face Sydney Central Local Court on Thursday.

The AFP said the taskforce comprising officers from the AFP, Customs, NSW Police and the Australian Crime Commission launched an investigation into a possible drug importation in September 2012, following a tip-off from a member of the public.

“This operation demonstrates that the AFP and its partners have the capability to detect and dismantle the most sophisticated organised crime groups,” AFP Commissioner Tony Negus said in a statement.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said the NSW police Asian Crime Squad first began investigating the matter and carried out vital investigative ground work.

“Our combined resources and talents have resulted in what is clearly a very significant seizure of drugs, and the arrests of people we will allege were involved in importing them to Australia,” Scipione said.

Photo taken on 27 Feb, 2013 shows a couple enjoy the scenery of fog-shrouded Weihai, a coastal city of east China’s Shandong Province. The central and eastern parts of China still saw fog and haze on Wednesday.—Xinhua

“Police seizure of Ice, worth up to 438 million US dollars, is clearly a very significant seizure of drugs, and the arrests of people we will allege were involved in importing them to Australia,” said NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione.

Australia’s largest ever “Ice” haul was seized during an operation in Sydney, the Australian Federal Police said on Friday.

Sydney’s New Year’s Eve fireworks display was cancelled after more than 95,000 firecrackers were seized from a Wholesale Fireworks store.

Anas had resigned from his party’s chairman’s position against Anas, the Democrat Party cadre said that the congress would be an extraordinary one as it was justified by the party’s administration. He hinted that it will be conducted in the near future, or could be convened sooner than expected during April this year.

“We still have a month to go. We need to monitor condition inside the party and also a bit more time to have a very significant seizure of drugs, and the arrests of people we will allege were involved in importing them to Australia,” Scipione said.

Responding on such an ordeal that potentially risk the party in the upcoming elections, the current party’s leadership will take immediate action by convening an extraordinary congress to elect new party’s chairman, Max Sopacua, a senior Democrat Party cadre said that the congress would be an extraordinary one as it was justified by the party’s administration. He hinted that it will be conducted in the near future, or could be convened sooner than expected during April this year.

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Anas involvement in high profile corruption cases was indicated from confessions of other senior Democrat Party’s cadres now serving jail terms after they were proved of committing corruptions in several state projects. They said that Anas received ill-gotten money and endowment from contractors awarded those projects.

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Ukraine to further cut gas imports from Russia

Kiev, 28 Feb—Ukraine would further reduce the amount of natural gas it imports from Russia this year, an energy official said here on Tuesday.

“This year, we will import 18 to 20 billion cubic metres of gas. We have already told Gazprom beforehand about it,” Deputy Chairman Vadim Chuprun of Ukraine’s Naftogaz energy firm said at the Press conference.

Ukraine will not feel a lack of fuel because it has sufficient gas reserves after the relatively warm winter, Chuprun said. Ukraine imported around 33 billion cubic metres of Russian gas in 2012, down 27 percent from the year before. —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ER TURKU VOY NO (012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 12:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Egypt starts national dialogue amid absence of main opposition bloc

CAIRO, 28 Feb—Egypt’s national dialogue among the presidency, different political forces, opposition and national figures, began on Tuesday evening to discuss ways of guaranteeing integrity of the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for 22 April.

President Mohamed Morsi, who headed the dialogue, once again invited political forces to join in, stressing the significance of dialogue in such a critical stage of Egypt’s transition to democracy.

“I still stress my invitation to all forces to join the dialogue... for the integrity and transparency of the forthcoming parliamentary elections,” Morsi said in his opening speech of the session.

The president reaffirmed that “the recommendations of those attending the session will be referred to the Supreme Election Commission for approval.”

Earlier on Tuesday, Egypt’s main opposition bloc the National Salvation Front decided to boycott the forthcoming parliamentary elections and also not to take part in the national dialogue.—Xinhua

Portugal seizes 79 tons of processed foods containing traces of horse meat

LISBON, 28 Feb—Portugal’s Food Safety Authority (ASAE) opened criminal proceedings against five Portuguese companies on Tuesday for fraud on super-market products and seized 79,000 kg meat containing traces of horse meat.

In a statement released on Tuesday evening, the Food Safety Authority stated that “Seizures were made in industrial preparation, packaging and distribution of meat in supermarkets.”

The agency announced it had seized some 18,839 packages of meat products, such as lasagne, burgers, cannelloni and meatballs and said they had collected and analyzed 134 samples, of which 13 contained DNA traces of horse meat.

As five criminal proceedings were instituted against companies, the ASAE stressed that there is “no public health hazard.” —Antonio Nunes, inspector general of the ASAE, told Xinhua that “Some 13 of 134 samples collected tested positive for the presence of horse meat in processed meat,” confirming that “79,000 kg of Portuguese frozen processed meat plus 18,839 food packages of international origin have been withdrawn from the market.”
Ronnie Wood says Rolling Stones hope to play Glastonbury festival

LONDON, 28 Feb — The Rolling Stones picked up two prizes at the NME Music Awards in London on Wednesday, and guitarist Ronnie Wood said the band hoped to play at Britain’s Glastonbury music festival in June. The Stones won for best live act and best film, and Wood was on hand to accept a pair of irreverent “middle finger” statuettes. The Stones returned to the stage in late 2012 to celebrate 50 years in business, and their sold-out North American tour of London and the United States was hit with critics and fans. Wood told Reuters Television he wanted to do more live shows, including playing Glastonbury. “Keep your eye out because you know I want to do some more (live shows) and I know that the boys do too,” he said. Asked about rumors the Stones could play at Glastonbury, one of the biggest European music festivals, for the first time in their long career, Wood replied: “I want to do it badly, but I’ve no idea yet ... but I am just looking forward to ... I know we’re the best live, so I just hope we get it,” he said. The lineup for the 26-30 June Glastonbury festival has not yet been announced. The veteran British rock group — comprising Wood, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Charlie Watts — is one of four acts to be nominated four times for the annual NME awards, organized by NME music magazine. As part of its golden jubilee celebrations, the band collaborated on the documentary film “Crossfire Hurricane” recalling its meteoric rise to fame.

“Les Miserables” to debut in China

BEIJING, 28 Feb — “Les Miserables” will debut in China on Thursday. The film will be shown in Chinese theatres without being dubbed in Chinese, according to the China Film Group Corporation.

Mumford & Sons hold top spot on Billboard 200 in slow music week

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — British folk band Mumford & Sons held their reign at the top of the Billboard 200 album chart with their Grammy-winning album “Babel” in a slow week that saw no new debuts in the top 10. Mumford & Sons, who won Album of the Year at the Grammy awards earlier this month and performed twice on stage, saw a second week of Grammy-related boosts as “Babel” sold 62,000 copies, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Comedian Will Ferrell to be honoured with MTV award

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — Troubled starlet Lindsay Lohan has had an “epiphany,” her attorney said on Wednesday, after almost six months of repeated trips to jail, rehab, counseling and courtrooms. The “Mean Girls” actress has started a new round of psychotherapy and is looking at giving inspirational speeches to school kids and cheering up young girls in hospitals. Mark Heller told E! News. Heller was speaking ahead of a pre-trial hearing in Los Angeles on Friday where Lohan, 26, has pleaded not guilty to charges of reckless driving and lying to police when she said she was not driving a car that smashed into a truck in June 2012. Lohan risks being sent to jail because she is still on probation after a string of legal woes that started with her 2007 arrest for drunken driving and cocaine possession. She is scheduled to stand trial on the June car crash charges on 18 March. Heller said Lohan was traumatized by the events of the past few years.

Los Angeles, 28 Feb — Will Ferrell will be honored by MTV at its 2013 movie awards show in April for his work in television and film comedy. It is the fifth non-consecutive week at the top of the Billboard, which was released in September 2012 and became one of last year’s biggest-selling records. The Grammy awards boost also helped Bruno Mars’ “Unorthodox Jukebox” reach No 2 with 48,000 copies, The Lumineers self-titled album at No 5, and Alabama Shakes’ “Boys & Girls” at No 6.

Lindsay Lohan has “epiphany,” hopes to give inspirational talks

Mumbai, 28 Feb — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan is teaming up with Anurag Kashyap in his next untitled movie. The 70-year-old will play the lead in the thriller, which is set to go on the floors early next year. “I am delighted to be working with Anurag, a director, who has through his rugged belief in his kind of cinema compelled us to fall in line with him.”
**SPORTS**

**Federer and Djokovic power through in Dubai**

DUBAI, 28 Feb—Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic strolled to easy victories in the Dubai Championships second round on Wednesday, keeping the world’s top two players on course for a showdown in Saturday’s final.

Other dangers awaited after Tomas Berdych and Juan Martin Del Potro also claimed straight sets wins, but few in Wednesday’s 5,000 capacity crowd would bet against another meeting between the big two, winners of 23 Grand Slam titles between them. Federer dismissed Spain’s Marcel Granollers 6-3, 6-4, while Djokovic overcame a late stumble to beat another Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 7-6.

Djokovic was seeking a 15th straight win, his unbeaten streak dating back to October, while Agut has one tour final appearance to his name and the Spaniard was fourth game in five to go 2-0 up in the second. The match looked all over, but Agut fought back, breaking Djokovic and saving four match points to take the set to a tiebreak, only for the Spaniard to bow out with a double fault.

“It was not easy to finish the match — he fought very hard and is great competitor,” Djokovic said in a court-side interview. “It was my fault—I made some unforced errors that gave him the chance to come back.”

The Serb, 25, now faces Italian Andreas Seppi in Thursday’s quarter-finals, while Federer will play Nikolay Davydenko. The 17-times grand slam champion was adamant he would not take the Russian lightly, despite boasting an 18-2 winning record against the veteran, who has slid down the rankings in recent years.—Reuters

**Bayern Munich eliminate Dortmund at German Cup**

BERLIN, 28 Feb—German record champions Bayern Munich progressed into the DFB Cup semi-finals after they eliminated Dortmund thanks to the sole goal by Arjen Robben on Wednesday. Bayern controlled the opening period, and scored when Toni Kroos passed through Toni Kroos who failed to tap in a deflected cross at the far post into the open goal. However, the Bayern train started to roll as Javi Martinez through Ilkay Guendogan when Dortmund worked half when Dortmund worked with beginning of the second half.

Bayern dominated the second half when Dortmund worked out promising opportunities through Ilkay Guendogan and Marco Reus. Nonetheless, at the other end of the pitch Dortmund had to thank their keeper Weidenfeller who denied scoring opportunities through Martinez, Dante and van Buyten in the closing period.—Xinhua

**Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return to Spain’s Marcel Granollers during their men’s singles match at the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 27 Feb, 2013.**—Reuters

**Hibbert, Lee suspended one game each for altercation**

Indiana Pacers centre Roy Hibbert (2nd L) and forward David Lee were each suspended one game for an altercation that spilled into the stands.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) announced the bans in a statement one day after the pair got into a shoving match late in the fourth quarter, triggering a fight that involved several members of both teams.

Hibbert will serve his suspension on Thursday when Indiana hosts the Los Angeles Clippers while Lee will miss the Warriors’ game later on Wednesday at the New York Knicks. The NBA also said Warriors guards Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson and Pacers guard Lance Stephenson have each been fined $35,000 for escalating the altercation in Indiana.—Reuters

**Miyazato pulls out of HSBC champions with whiplash**

SINGAPORE, 28 Feb—Japan’s Ai Miyazato withdrew from this week’s Women’s HSBC Champions tournament in Singapore on Wednesday because of neck and shoulder pain caused by a car crash that involved two other golfers.

World number 13 Paula Creamer and her ranked Lynn Petterson were also involved in the six-car crash late on Sunday in Bangkok, where they were driving to the airport to catch a flight to Singapore for the $1.4 million tournament which starts on Thursday.

World number nine Miyazato, who won in Singapore in 2010, practiced for about 15 minutes at the Sentosa Golf Club on Wednesday before pulling out with whiplash. “I have pain in my neck and shoulder, so I’ll sit this tournament out as a precaution,” the Japanese said in a statement. American Creamer strained a muscle in her neck and sustained whiplash, but participated in a photo shoot on Tuesday with fellow LPGA Tour players Peterson, Angela Stanford and world number one Yani Tseng to promote the event. “I’ve felt better, that’s for sure,” Creamer said.—Reuters

**Injury keeps Vazquez off WBC team**

NEW YORK, 28 Feb— Starter Javier Vazquez will not pitch for Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic due to discomfort in his knee and may miss another Major League Baseball (MLB) season.

Vazquez, trying to come back from right knee surgery, told El Nuevo Dia newspaper in San Juan that discomfort in the knee will prevent him from participating in the WBC, according to a report on MLB’s website on Wednesday.

Puerto Rico still has major league experience on the pitching staff with JC Romero, Nelson Figueroa and Florida Marlins starting pitcher Javier Vazquez throws a pitch to the New York Mets in the first inning of their MLB National League baseball game at Citi-Field in New York, in this file photo taken on 1 Aug, 2011.—Reuters

**Knicks’ Wallace likely out for season with broken foot**

NEW YORK, 28 Feb—New York Knicks back-up forward/centre Rasheed Wallace will have surgery this week to repair a broken left foot and will probably miss the rest of the regular season, the team said on Wednesday.

The 38-year-old Wallace, who came out of a two-year retirement to join the Knicks last October, had been sidelined since mid-December with a foot injury.

Wallace played well for the Knicks (33-20), who lead the National Basketball Association’s Atlantic Division despite recent struggles, averaging 7.2 points and 4.2 rebounds in 14.6 minutes a game. New York moved to shore up their frontline by signing free-agent forward Kenyon Martin to a 10-day contract on Saturday.—Reuters

**New Light of Myanmar**

28 Feb—Ger— Indi—, 28 Feb—Roger

Friday, 1 March, 2013

**New York Knicks’ Rasheed Wallace reacts to a referee’s call against the Chicago Bulls during the first half of their NBA game in Chicago, in this file photo taken on 8 Dec, 2012.**—Reuters
Educatives talks on narcotic drug given in Dawbon

YANGON, 28 Feb — Educatives talks on narcotic drug and abuse of household pharmaceuticals was held at BEHSNo(1) in Dawbon Township on 19 February. Township police force commander police major San Myaing made an opening speech.

Later, SIP Nay Lin Tun of Yangon East District Anti-Drug Special Squard, Assistant Township law officer Daw Myint Myat Mon and Assistant Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Khin Nway Nway gave talks on disadvantages of narcotic drug and side effects of household pharmaceuticals. 210 students was attended the ceremony. Headmaster U Kyaw Soe spoke words of thank.

PSW had no difficulties at PEC Zwolle. Due to the absence of the suspended Jeremain Lens and ailing Tim Matavz, Jurgen Locadia had a starting place for PSV.

AZ, PSV reach Dutch Cup Final

THE HAGUE, 28 Feb —PSV Eindhoven and AZ Alkmaar qualified for the final of the Dutch Cup, the KNVB Beker, on Wednesday by beating PEC Zwolle and Ajax by identical 3-0 respectively. Ajax dominated the first half against AZ in Amsterdam, but was not able to create many chances. Defender Niklas Moisander was closest to a goal by hitting the post after a free-kick by Lasse Schone.

In the second half Ajax continued pressing AZ backwards, but the home-team squandered some chances by hitting too high or wide. AZ waited for their chance and that chance came in the 74th minute. After bad defending by Ajax Adam Maher crossed from the backline and Jozy Altidore headed in. In the final minutes Johann Berg Gudmundsson and Altidore even made it 3-0.

PSV had no difficulties at PEC Zwolle. Due to the absence of the suspended Jeremain Lens and ailing Tim Matavz, Jurgen Locadia had a starting place for PSV.

The 19-year-old striker impressed by scoring three goals, in the 16th, the 34th and the 85th minute. “We won the Super Cup, made it to the Cup final and are still title contenders,” said coach Dick Advocaat. “It could be worse.”

The final will be played on May 9 in Rotterdam. Last year PSV won the final by beating Heracles Almelo 3-0.

Wrestling champion Cejudo enters a new arena

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — Olympic freestyle wrestling champion Henry Cejudo is entering the mixed martial arts arena knowing that he has a lot to learn. Some things, however, he already knows.

“He’s used to welding where he has fans that just yell and scream,” he told Reuters in a telephone interview. “But in MMA, people are drinking. People are fighting in the stands. People are cussing. It’s something that’s completely, completely new for me.

But at the same time it’s not going to faze me.”

The son of immigrants who told washinGton, the only thing where they have fans that support him, Cejudo is an American wrestler to claim Olympic gold. “I know he loves fighting. In MMA anything can happen. He’s ready, I’m ready. It’s going to be a fight. The only thing I promise you is that I’m going to give it my best.

Ibrahimovic banned by UEFA for two European matches

PARIS Saint-Germain forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been banned for two matches on Wednesday for challenging opponents’ player.

Ibrahimovic will sit out of the European Champions League quartfinals, first leg if Paris Saint-Germain advances. UEFA extended an automatic one-match sanction for Ibrahimovic’s challenge on Valencia midfielder Andres Guar- dado in stoppage-time of the last-16, first-leg match this month when PSG won 2-1. Ibrahimovic was shown a straight red card in stoppage-time in Spain, and was already certain to miss the return in Paris on 6 March.

The 19-year-old striker impressed by scoring three goals, in the 16th, the 34th and the 85th minute. “We won the Super Cup, made it to the Cup final and are still title contenders,” said coach Dick Advocaat. “It could be worse.”

The final will be played on May 9 in Rotterdam. Last year PSV won the final by beating Heracles Almelo 3-0.
Norway’s strong support for peace process under way will make history: President U Thein Sein

Mr Jens Stoltenberg said: I think it (the visit) underlines very close relationship and cooperation between the two countries. We have seen more active developments towards democracy in Myanmar. The last two years has seen transition to civilian rule, release of political prisoners, elections and lifting of restrictions imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. President U Thein Sein has our true recognition for his efforts to reform and to develop democracy in Myanmar. The fact that this is your first visit to European countries give a strong signal your government aims to develop extensive cooperation with Norway. My government shares this aim. The signal of the long-term commitment to Myanmar, the Norwegian government decided to upgrade the diplomatic office in Yangon to open full-fledged embassy. In our talk, we discussed many positive developments in Myanmar and we also spent time on the challenges the country is facing. We depend on continued political reforms, respect for human rights and more equitable distribution of the common ground. We discussed the difficult situation of Kachin. It is important to give priority to political dialogue with ethnic armed groups. We also discussed difficult situation of the people of Kachin. I emphasized you to protect everyone in the country. I underline that Norway has prepared to contribute to Myanmar’s further development, the development of democracy and also the business relations between our two countries. I pointed out that Norwegian companies are responsible partners and can make a positive contribution to Myanmar’s development. I underline that fair and predictable business conditions are important in this context. It is also important for Norway to establish good system for tax collection, for ensuring worker’s right and employment protection.

Mr President, I hope that your visit to Norway will be positive and fruitful and inspiring you to continue to transform Myanmar into developed economy and a true democracy.

President U Thein Sein in his speech said: I honour to begin my visit to Europe here also. I want to express the great gratitude to our transition have offered encouragement and support to the people and government of Myanmar and all to the people and government of Norway in reconfiguration of the steadfast commitments over the years and the encouragement and support of transition and most importantly for the friendship and understanding. Norway has for its commitment to democracy and human rights in Myanmar over the years. In recent years, it has also taken the lead among the western nations in engaging with Myanmar. This will help play valuable role in making possible the positive changes that have been occurring in the country. I would like to tell the world to understand that the role Norway has played for past few years in supporting our transition have offered great significance. The people of Norway should be proud of their leaders and the diplomats supporting the reforms taking place in Myanmar. Like a true friend, rather than criticizing from thousands of miles away they talk to us candidly and openly and work with the final solution. Your strong support for peace process under way will make history. We will soon end the longest armed conflict in the world. We will have been the part of ending them.

Sports enhance moral, discipline and unyielding spirit

Sports activities have enhanced moral and discipline and the unyielding spirit of the participants to overcome difficulties. Countries are mobilizing the public to participate more on the sports activities. The country needs modern infrastructures, sports equipment, dedicated coaches, talent athletes and efficient team managers to improve her sports standard and mobilize the people. Also present on the occasion were Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of the Vice-President, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, General Hla Htay Win of Office of Commander-in-Chief and senior military officers, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hlutaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and committee chairs, Union ministers, deputy ministers, sports fans and others. Fifteen teams from regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are taking part in the 22 sports events including track and field, badminton, basketball, billiards/snooker, boxing, traditional boxing, Wushu and wrestling.