Let’s go to Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring to refresh our mind and body

In the time of the new government, Myanmar has been recognized as an attractive tourist destination by international community thanks to its move to greater transparency and more globetrotters have thronged into the country than before. Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring has become popular as a resort where tourists will be able to have a relaxing effect on their mind and body, gaining great satisfaction.

Moreover, the hot spring serves as a facility for leisure and recreation of service personnel who are discharging duties in Nay Pyi Taw and their families to be able to refresh their mind and body at the emerging hot spring. The hot spring is a natural one and lies on Pyinmana-Pinlaung motorway near Taungkya village. Nay Pyi Taw hot spring situated at an altitude of 1500 feet produces heated water around the year, ranging from 8000 to 10000 gallons an hour. As the water temperature of the spring is about 98 degree centigrade, it is ready to have an egg and a potato after boiling them for three or five minutes in the water.

There are 15 turns between mile post Nos (34/4) and (36/4). The hot spring is nestled in the serene and lush green forest with view points to enjoy scenic views of the natural environment. At mile post No (41/6), Leinli suspension bridge is situated at the crossroads of Kayah State, Shan State and Nay Pyi Taw, Union territory.

Villages at the vicinity of the hot spring are home to Shan, Kayan, Kayin and Kayah national races who depend on traditional farming for their livelihood. Visitors will be able to not only study culture and traditions of hilly people but also buy their agricultural produce and locally-grown fruit and vegetables.

As Myanmar is going to host the 27th SEA Games soon, athletes from other countries will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of favourable Myanmar topography.

Under the supervision of Parks and Playgrounds Department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring is providing services to visitors for their relaxation and recreation.

Kyemon (8-2-2013)

Byline: Zaw Min Aung

(107)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 7/2013)

3rd Waxing of Tabodwe, 1374 ME
(13th February, 2013)

Appointment of Union Ministers

Under the Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as the Union Ministers of the ministries shown against them.

(1) U Myat Hein
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

(2) Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win
Ministry of Border Affairs

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Photo shows a flock of visitors refreshing their mind and body at Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring situated at an altitude of 1500 ft near Taungkya village on Pyinmana-Pinlaung motorway.

President U Thein Sein receives Indian LOK SABHA Speaker and party

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Feb — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received an Indian delegation led by LOK SABHA Speaker Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

They held discussions on implementation of Kaladan Project, sooner completion of India-Myanmar-Thailand highway construction, gearing up of repair works of Moreh-Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa-Mandalay route, reemergence of Lido Road built in WWII that will be of benefit to India, Myanmar and China in trade, effective and cementing bilateral friendship.

Also present together with the President were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Soe Maung and U Win Myint, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun and departmental heads. The Indian delegation led by the LOK SABHA Speaker was accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Villur Sundararajan Seshadri.
**New Light of Myanmar**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Thai club to play friendlies with MNL teams**

YANGON, 13 Feb — Bec Tero Sasana Football Club of Thailand that will play MNL football clubs in friendly matches arrived at Mandalay International Airport by air on 10 February.

A 39-member football team including 24 players started their training for friendly matches in Myanmar.

**New tarred road emerges in Katha Township**

KATHA, 13 Feb — Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, Padauk Shwe Wah tarred road was put into service at ward-7 in Katha on 8 February.

**Hostel fire in PyinOoLwin**

PYINOO LWI N, 13 Feb — A fire broke out at a six-roomed one-storey hostel in ward-1 of PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region on 3 February morning.

The fire started from the wire shock circuit while charging the laptop’s battery at the fourth room of the hostel. As fire crews accompanied by two fire engines managed to bring the fire under control in time, the fire did not spread to other houses.

A laptop and belongings in two rooms were burnt in the fire. — Kyemon

**Seizures of illegal hardwood, wood-cutting machines in Toungoo, Yedashe Township**

NAK PT TAW, 13 Feb — Forest staff led by the assistant director of Toungoo District Forest Department seized 4,676 tons of hardwood, two wood-cutting machines, two discs of chainsaw, related items and a mobile phone while combing three places in the forest in Toungoo Township on 3 and 4 February.

Likewise, forest staff of Yedashe Township seized 16,384 tons of hardwood in the west Swa forest reserve on 3 February. Actions are being taken to expose owners of seized hardwood and related items. — MNA

**Punitive action for undispatched parked cars**

YANGON, 13 Feb — Road users have welcomed the notification of authorities that carries phone numbers of township-wise car towing services to be able to inform of undispatched vehicles which are stationary in the middle of the road and blocking the road and are parked illegally and on the road corners due to various reasons in downtown Yangon.

Road users called for participation of service personnel like police members and traffic police in taking actions against irresponsible drivers and vehicles so that action will be effective. Although car towing service had met with success in foreign countries, it would take time to be appropriate for Myanmar culture, they pointed out.

Road users expressed their views that crane cars should be deployed in a ready position at the areas where there are many packed cars on motor lanes of passenger buses. — Kyemon

**Inspection of electricity consumption carried out**

THAYET, 13 Feb — A team led by district and township electrical engineers went on a tour of inspection of wards in Thayet on 5 February.

They carried out inspection of meter boxes for minimizing power loss, ensuring correct electricity bill to be able to generate more income and curbing illegal use of electricity. — Kyemon

**Pwayahta market ring road put into service in Pindaya**

NAY PI TAW, 13 Feb — Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the opening of new Pwayahta market ring road built by Pindaya Township Development Affairs Committee was held in Pwayahta of Danu self-administered zone on 9 February.

Chairman of the leading body of Danu self-administered zone U Htoo Ko Ko, Director of Shan State DAD U Sai Tun Tun and a townswell formally opened the new road, and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and party strolled along the road.

Next, the chief minister attended the ceremony to hand over documents related to a new school building for Basic Education Primary School No (83) at Innge village to the Ministry of Education by Nippon Foundation of Japan. The chairman of the foundation, the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, the director-general of Department for Border Regions and National Races Development and officials concerned formally opened the new school building.

The newly-opened school building was the 200th facility the foundation that signed MoU with the department to build primary schools in Shan State. — MNA

**Light truck overturns while overtaking trailer in Pakokku**

PAKO KU, 13 Feb — A light truck carrying passengers turned over near Panndaingchon village, seven-mile east of Pakokku Township Police Station, on Pakokku-Yezagyo motorway in Pakokku Township of Magway Region on 9 February.

The light truck driven by Phyo Wai Kyi, 33, overturned while trying to overtake a trailer from the left side at high speed at a place between mile post Nos (654) and (655) on the road. The road accident left 16 passengers who were on board the light truck wounded. The injured are being given medical treatment at Pakokku Hospital. — Kyemon

**Hnawkon village sees newly-upgraded BEMS**

NAY PT TAW, 13 Feb — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint unveiled the signboard of the school which was upgraded into Basic Education Middle School at Hnawkon village in YeU Township of Sagaing Region on 10 February.

Next, the Union minister called on students to put a lot of efforts into learning as development of the country in future rests on hard-working youths of today.

They carried out inspection of meter boxes for minimizing power loss, ensuring correct electricity bill to be able to generate more income and curbing illegal use of electricity. — Kyemon

**Winners of reading skill, essay contest awarded in Paung**

PAUNG, 13 Feb — With the aim of cultivating local people with reading habit at the age of knowledge, the prize-giving ceremony of reading skill and essay contests was held at Mindan middle school in Thabyu-chaung village of Paung Township on 8 February.

Paung Township Administration U Myint Naing and District Information and Public Relations Department Head Daw Khin Saw Linn spoke on the occasion.

Next, Paung Township IRPD Head Daw Cho Myat Myat Hwé and officials presented prizes to winners of the reading skill and essay contests. — Kyemon

**Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the opening of new Pwayahta market ring road built by Pindaya Township Development Affairs Committee was held in Pwayahta of Danu self-administered zone on 9 February.**

**Chairman of the leading body of Danu self-administered zone U Htoo Ko Ko, Director of Shan State DAD U Sai Tun Tun and a townswell formally opened the new road, and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and party strolled along the road.**

**Next, the chief minister attended the ceremony to hand over documents related to a new school building for Basic Education Primary School No (83) at Innge village to the Ministry of Education by Nippon Foundation of Japan.**

**The chairman of the foundation, the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, the director-general of Department for Border Regions and National Races Development and officials concerned formally opened the new school building.**

**The newly-opened school building was the 200th facility the foundation that signed MoU with the department to build primary schools in Shan State.** — MNA
Obama proposes raising minimum wage, investing in infrastructure jobs

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb — US President Barack Obama proposed on Tuesday to hike the minimum wage by more than 20 percent, invest $50 billion on crumbling roads and bridges and spend $15 billion on a construction jobs programme in a bid to boost economic growth.

In his annual State of the Union address, Obama urged Congress to support his plan, which would include tax and education reforms that the administration believes would help attract manufacturers back to the United States.

The complete cost of the programme would be offset by spending cuts and tax reforms that will be laid out in Obama’s budget proposal in the weeks ahead, senior administration officials told reporters.

The minimum wage increase would lift incomes for 15 million Americans and be done in stages, the officials said, noting that an increasing number of corporate chief executives support such a move.

The officials said economic studies show increasing the minimum wage is effective at reducing poverty while reducing turnover costs for businesses.

Obama is also proposing to raise the tipped minimum wage — the wage for jobs whose compensation includes gratuities — and have it indexed for inflation, a move, the officials noted, that was supported by Obama’s 2012 Republican presidential opponent, Mitt Romney.

UNESCO DG sends message on World Radio Day

NAV PYI TAW, 13 Feb — On the occasion of World Radio Day which falls on 13th February 2013, Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO sent a message. In her message she said that World Radio Day celebrates a medium that transformed the way of communication and that remains at the forefront of the 21st century. On 18 December, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the 2011 resolution adopted by the UNESCO General Conference, proclaiming 13 February as World Radio Day, the day United Nations Radio was established in 1946.

The birth of radio in the 19th century ushered in the era of mass communication. The world has changed dramatically since then, but radio remains widely accessible, relatively cheap and very simple to use. In situations of conflict and natural disaster, shortwave radio provides a lifeline of information that can save lives.

The DG also pointed out that across the world, the cost of broadcasting is decreasing and the number of radio stations is increasing. Citizen journalists and community media are using online radio stations to give voices to those who are rarely heard.

More than ever, radio remains a force for social change, by sharing knowledge and providing a platform for inclusive debate. In a world changing quickly, UNESCO is committed to harnessing the full power of radio to build bridges of understanding between peoples, to share information as widely as possible and to deepen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially freedom of expression.

This is essential for good governance, open societies and sustainable development. This is why UNESCO works to protect the safety of radio journalists across the world and to support free, independent and pluralistic media, along with the necessary legal frameworks and democratic institutions. UNESCO is also determined to make full use of community radio to address poverty and social exclusion at the local level to help empower marginalized rural groups, young people and women. Radio is a key platform for education and for protecting local cultures and languages.

It is also a powerful way to amplify the voices of young people around the world on issues that affect their lives. “We must bolster their skills and give them opportunities to engage fully with radio. Radio has transformed our past — it remains a powerful force for shaping a more peaceful, more sustainable and more inclusive future for all.” She said. —NLM

ANDRITZ HYDRO opens representative office in Myanmar

ANDRITZ HYDRO opens representative office in Myanmar

Yangon, 13 Feb — ANDRITZ HYDRO, part of international technology Group ANDRITZ, has opened a representative office here on 1 February, 2013, and is thus further strengthening ANDRITZ HYDRO’s strong presence in Southeast Asia, together with its subsidiaries established in Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Southeast Asia has been an important hydropower market for ANDRITZ HYDRO for decades. “We have followed the dynamic opening and transition process in Myanmar over the past few years and are happy to announce that we now have a representative office in this dynamic market. This will enable us to better analyze the market, its needs, and opportunities,” said Josef Ullmer, President of ANDRITZ HYDRO South East Asia at the opening ceremony.

Both the economic growth and the increasing energy demand have substantially increased the energy needs of this country, which has a population of 60 million. A recent study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) shows that while per capita energy consumption of electricity in Myanmar remains one of the lowest in Asia (electricity rate is only around 26%), the overall energy consumption in Myanmar increased by an average of 2.4% annually between 2000 and 2009.

Two-thirds of the electrical energy in Myanmar is based on hydropower. The four main river basins (Ayeyarwaddy, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittaung) are seen as the major sources of the huge hydropower potential in Myanmar, estimated at more than 100,000 MW.

For comparison: As of the end of 2011, only 753 MW of hydropower power was commissioned (Source: ADB study).

Since the 1980s, ANDRITZ HYDRO has successfully realized several projects in Myanmar, all of them to the complete satisfaction of the customer: 1983 - Kon Nyaung, 1984 - Tatkyi Falls, 2004 - Mone, Paung Laung. ANDRITZ HYDRO has been invited by local partners and the Ministry of Electric Power to work more intensively in Myanmar in the future. “This is a huge opportunity. We are working closely with our local partners on these projects, which will help us to combine our international expertise and local knowledge,” said ANDRITZ HYDRO’s Regional Director for Indochina, Martin Kubek.

The goal is to work closely with government agencies to identify effective short-term modernization projects that will meet the increasing energy needs of Myanmar. —NLM

UN Security Council to back Mali peacekeepers in weeks

DUBLIN, 13 Feb — The UN Security Council is expected to reach an agreement in two to three weeks to deploy up to 6,000 peacekeepers in Mali to help stabilize the country after a rebel incursion, a senior UN official said on Tuesday.

The 15-nation council initially appeared reluctant to send its own blue-helmeted peacekeepers to the West African nation, and instead backed an African-led force that was due to deploy later this year.

But France’s decision to send its own soldiers to fight Islamist rebels in northern Mali in January rendered that plan moot, diplomats told Reuters in January.

A Mali peacekeeping chief Herve Ladous said on Tuesday the council was now emerging in Security Council discussions to deploy a peacekeeping force “at the appropriate time.”

“I think the Security Council will be looking at a resolution in the next two or three weeks and then we can move ahead for full deployment,” Ladous said in Dublin.

About 4,500 French troops have pushed back advanced rebels since the country’s president and national assembly fugitive rebels who seized the northern two thirds of the country last year. France said it moved to stop the military turning the country into a base for militant attacks across the region and beyond.

It added the mission to be replaced gradually by a force with a UN peacekeeping mandate by April. Ladous said he was confident the force would be in place before then, ahead of elections on 31 July, as Mali takes steps toward restoring democratic government after a coup in March.

He added it still had to be decided how the peacekeepers would relate to the UN-backed African military force (AFISMA) which already has 3,800 troops on the ground in Mali.

Reuters

UNESCO DG sends message on World Radio Day
NASA satellites find fresh water losses in Middle East

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—NASA's GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) satellites show an alarming rate of decrease in total water storage in the Tigris and Euphrates river basins, which currently have the second fastest rate of groundwater storage loss on Earth, after India, said Jagmohan Parihar, chief scientist of the study and a hydrologist and professor at UC Irvine. “The rate was especially striking after the 2007 drought. Meanwhile, demand for freshwater continues to rise, and the region does not coordinate its water management because of different interpretations of international laws.”—Xinhua

Pentagon stands by use of lithium-ion batteries on F-35 fighters

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—The Pentagon said it plans to continue using lithium-ion batteries on the new F-35 fighter jet despite problems with similar batteries that have grounded Boeing Co's new 787 airliner and are causing Air Bus to rethink their use on its A380 jet. Joe DellaVedova, spokesman for the Pentagon’s $396 billion F-35 programme office, said on Tuesday that the lithium-ion batteries used on the new radar-evading fighter were made by different manufacturers than those used on the 787, and the jet’s battery systems had been rigorously tested. “The bottom line is the lithium-ion batteries used on the F-35s have been through extensive tests and have redundant systems to protect the aircraft and battery compartments; they are considered safe,” DellaVedova said. DellaVedova said there had been some irregularities with the lithium-ion batteries not starting properly in cold temperatures that were being addressed, but no issues affecting flight safety had come up during years of testing.

All 50 Boeing Dreamliners in commercial service grounded worldwide on 16 January after a series of battery-related incidents, including a fire on board a park at Boston Logan International Airport and an in-flight problem on another airplane in Japan. The groundings have cost airlines tens of millions of dollars, with no solution yet in sight, and have sparked growing concerns among aerospace industry executives about whether the powerful but delicate backup energy systems are technically “mature,” or predictable.—Reuters

Yahoo says Microsoft search deal underperforms

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Feb—Yahoo Inc Chief Executive Marissa Mayer attended the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on 25 Jan, 2013. Reuters

Yahoo CEO says Microsoft search deal underperforms

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—Microsoft Corp on Tuesday cut its fiscal fourth-quarter profit forecast by $1.25 billion and said its Internet search business is only just beginning to show signs of recovery, after reporting a 4 per cent rise in quarterly revenue. “It’s not a value play, it’s a performance play,” chief executive officer Steve Ballmer said on a call with analysts. “We are not seeing the upside potential that we anticipated in the OS and search business. We will not be able to meet the guidance that we have been providing for the last several quarters.”—Reuters

Intel plans online TV service as PC chip sales wane

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—Intel plans to launch an Internet television service this year with live and on-demand content, entering a hotly competitive race as its core PC business erodes. "It’s not a value play, it’s a performance play," chief executive officer Steve Ballmer said on a call with analysts. “We are not seeing the upside potential that we anticipated in the OS and search business. We will not be able to meet the guidance that we have been providing for the last several quarters.”—Reuters

San Francisco, 13 Feb—Yahoo Inc Chief Executive Marissa Mayer said on Tuesday that the company’s seven-year partnership with Microsoft Corp was not delivering the market share gains or the revenue boost that should result from the points of the alliance is that we collectively want to grow share rather than just trading share with each other,” Mayer said at the Goldman Sachs Technology and Internet Conference in San Francisco on Tuesday. In her first appearance at an investor conference since taking the reins of the struggling Web portal in July, Mayer said she planned to prune a sprawling lineup of businesses, in order to display more international management because of different interpretations of international laws.”—Xinhua

Yahoo CEO says Microsoft search deal underperforms

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—Microsoft Corp on Tuesday cut its fiscal fourth-quarter profit forecast by $1.25 billion and said its Internet search business is only just beginning to show signs of recovery, after reporting a 4 per cent rise in quarterly revenue. “It’s not a value play, it’s a performance play,” chief executive officer Steve Ballmer said on a call with analysts. “We are not seeing the upside potential that we anticipated in the OS and search business. We will not be able to meet the guidance that we have been providing for the last several quarters.”—Reuters

Russian cargo spacecraft docks with ISS

MOSCOW, 13 Feb—The Russian Progress M-18M unmanned supply ship docked on Tuesday with the International Space Station, the Mission Control Centre said. “The docking was carried out in automatic regime at 00:35 Moscow Time Tuesday (2035 GMT Monday),” the control centre said in a statement. The Progress M-18M was launched from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan and fast-tracked to the ISS partner station, the mission control centre said. The spacecraft crew includes three Russians, two Americans and a Canadian. —Xinhua

Intel plans online TV service as PC chip sales wane

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—Intel plans to launch an Internet television service this year with live and on-demand content, entering a hotly competitive race as its core PC business erodes. Shift ing from an unfamiliar and potentially costly market in which Intel lacks experience and relationships, Erik Huggers, vice president and general manager of Intel Media, said he is negoti ating with content providers. He said hundreds of Intel employees and their families are already testing a version of the company will sell as part of the service. Intel’s move puts it into competition with heavyweights such as Apple, Amazon and Google that believe the $100 billion cable television ecosystem is ripe for change. The chipmaker plans to offer consumers smaller bundles of content than those currently offered by cable operators, Erik Huggers, vice president and general manager of Intel Media, told the AllThingsDigital “Dive into Media” conference on Tuesday. “We have been working for the past year to set up Intel media, a new group focused on developing an Internet platform.” Huggers said, “It’s not a value play, it’s a quality play where we’ll create a superior experience for the end user.” Intel has struggled to get its virtual television service off the ground due to unwillingness on the part of major media content providers to let the company unbundle and license specific networks and shows at a discount to what cable and satellite partners pay, according to sources. —Reuters

Showgoers visit the Intel booth on the first day of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 8 Jan, 2013. —Reuters
**CNOOC-Nexen deal approved by US regulators**

**BEIJING, 13 Feb**—US regulators have approved China National Offshore Oil Corporation’s (CNOOC’s) 15.1-billion-USD bid to buy Nexen Inc, a deal that will be the biggest overseas takeover made by a Chinese company.

The approval from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) means the last major hurdle was cleared, CNOOC, China’s largest offshore oil producer, said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

Before this, the deal has won approvals from Nexen shareholders, local courts in Canada, the Canadian government, and the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s economic planner.

Progresses of the deal will be published at a proper time, the statement said. CNOOC said on 28 January that the closing date for the takeover would be between 31 January to 2 March, 2013. The deal needed US approvals because Nexen, based in Calgary, Alberta, controlled assets in the Gulf of Mexico.

**SEoul, 13 Feb**—South Korea’s import prices fell that month by more than three years in January as the local currency appreciated against the US dollar, central bank data showed on Wednesday.

In local currency terms, import prices tumbled 10.6 percent in January from a year before, the lowest since October 2009 when the price sank 15.3 percent, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

From a month earlier, the prices declined 0.8 percent. The jump in prices from January last year was driven by the fall in import prices from a 6.4 percent decline in October, a 7.9 percent fall in November and a 9 percent drop in December. The South Korean won rose 1.1 percent versus the dollar last month. Prices in raw material imported from overseas gained 0.1 percent in January from the prior month as Dubai crude, South Korea’s benchmark, averaged $107.93 a barrel, up 1 percent from a month before.

**Korea’s import prices fall on stronger won**

**Reuters**

**Tokyo, 13 Feb**—Asian shares lifted on Monday as Australia and New Zealand banks reported gains, while shares in Japan and South Korea followed their Wall Street counterparts.

Australia’s banks, which account for 30 percent of their country’s GDP, have been helped by a drop in interest rates following the central banks’ decisions to keep rates on hold.

Tokyo stocks ended slightly higher, Japan’s Nikkei average rose 0.7 percent, while Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 added 0.7 percent, and South Korea’s Kospi gained 0.8 percent.

**Australia banks share strong gains**

**Reuters**

**Paris, 13 Feb**—For pharmaceutical companies, Africa is changing. Not only is the continent’s economic growth grabbing attention in boardrooms but the shifting nature of its disease burden is luring Big Pharma, as new opportunities open up for treating chronic diseases afflicting the middle classes, rather than just fire-fighting infections.

European companies, in particular, hope to reap rewards by investing early in a region where many of them already have historic commercial ties. Violence in Mali and Algeria have put Africa in the headlines in recent weeks but Sanofi of France —the international drug company with the biggest sales in Africa—is still pushing ahead with a third factory in Nigeria. “Africa is becoming an extremely interesting market and we’ll continue to expand our commercial presence there,” Chief Executive Chris Viehbacher told Reuters.

According to IMS data, by 2016 pharmaceutical spending in Africa is expected to reach $30 billion, driven by a 10.6 percent annual growth rate that is second only to Asia and in line with Latin America. By 2020 the market will have more than doubled from current levels to $45 billion. Although it is smaller a region than Western Europe, still remains a niche market, the promise of Africa is that it will continue to grow in the next decade as Asia and Latin America start to reach maturity. It is that potential for the continent to act as a hedge against slowing long-term growth in established emerging markets that appeals to Novartis Chief Executive Joe Jimenez.

**Drugmakers eye Africa’s middle classes as next growth market**

**Reuters**

**Beijing, 13 Jan, 2013.—**Drugs for heart failure and pneumonia have the strongest effect on hospital deaths and readmissions, according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The new study, which appears in the Journal of the American Medical Association, doesn’t prove low folic acid in pregnant women causes their babies to develop autism, or that high doses can prevent it. And Suren and his colleagues didn’t show an effect of folic acid on other autism spectrum disorders, such as Asperger’s. They followed just over 85,000 women and their children, born between 2002 and 2008. When women were about halfway through their pregnancies, they reported taking for the continent to act as a hedge against slowing long-term growth in established emerging markets that appeals to Novartis Chief Executive Joe Jimenez.

**Drugmakers eye Africa’s middle classes as next growth market**

**Reuters**

**Reuters**

**Hospital deaths and readmissions not linked**

**New York, 13 Feb**—Women who took folic acid in the weeks before and just after becoming pregnant were less likely to have a child with autism, in a new study from Norway. Because lack of folic acid has been tied to brain and spinal cord birth defects, groups included the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) already call for women who may become pregnant to take daily supplements containing the B vitamin.

The new study “provides an additional rationale to take folic acid, in addition to the preventive effect that we already know it has against neural tube defects,” said Dr Pal Suren, from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo, who led the research. “It underlines the importance of starting early, preferably before the pregnancy,” he told Reuters Health. One in 88 children in the US has an autism spectrum disorder, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That number has risen in recent years, but at $170,000 per child — the time the drug is thought to have the strongest effect on development. By the time their kids were between three and 10 years old, 270 had been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, including Suren’s. Suren’s team found one in 1,000 babies born to women who reported taking folic acid early in pregnancy had autism, compared to about two in 1,000 of those whose moms didn’t take folic acid.—Reuters

Folic acid in pregnancy tied to lower autism risk

**NEW YORK, 13 Feb**—Women who took folic acid in the weeks before and just after becoming pregnant were less likely to have a child with autism, in a new study from Norway. Because lack of folic acid has been tied to brain and spinal cord birth defects, groups included the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) already call for women who may become pregnant to take daily supplements containing the B vitamin.

The new study, which appears in the Journal of the American Medical Association, doesn’t prove low folic acid in pregnant women causes their babies to develop autism, or that high doses can prevent it. And Suren and his colleagues didn’t show an effect of folic acid on other autism spectrum disorders, such as Asperger’s. They followed just over 85,000 women and their children, born between 2002 and 2008. When women were about halfway through their pregnancies, they reported taking...
Obama’s Israel trip to include visiting Iron Dome

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—US Senate panel on Tuesday affirmed the nomination of former Senator Chuck Hagel, US President Barack Obama’s pick as next Defence Secretary, sending it to the full Senate vote. The Senate Armed Services Committee voted 14 to 11 after a lengthy meeting to approve Hagel’s nomination to succeed retiring Defence Secretary Leon Panetta. The panel’s Democrats backed Obama’s choice of next Pentagon Chief while Republicans remained opposed to the two-term Republican Senator from Nebraska.

Responding to the criticism at the hearing, Hagel said he backed the US policy of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and that all options including the use of military force are on the table. Hagel, 66, a decorated Vietnam War veteran and a moderate Republican, is expected to be trusted by Obama on many issues including the US military exit from Afghanistan. He served two tours from 1997 to 2009 as US Senator for Nebraska, and was a leading Republican critic of the Iraq War.

US Senate panel approves Hagel’s nomination as Defence Secretary

French charity workers jailed two years on children-smuggling charges

PARIS, 13 Feb—A French court on Tuesday sentenced workers of the charity Zoe’s Ark to two years of imprisonment on attempts to smuggle 103 children from Chad to France six years ago.

Eric Breteau, the president of the charity, and his girlfriend Emilie Lellouch were found guilty of trying to smuggle the children presented as orphans from Darfur to France.

Each of the two defendants will pay 50,000 euros (67,188 US dollars) fine and will be prevented from practicing any activities related to hospitality, accommodation or minors’ placing, according to the court.

Four other volunteers were given between six months and one year suspending jail terms. In October, 2007, Chadian officials arrested Zoe’s Ark staff for attempting to fly illegally children who were mostly Chadian and had at least one living parent. (1 euro = 1.34 US dollar)—Xinhua

Yemen’s elite counter-terrorism special operation forces conduct training exercises on the outskirts of Sanaa, Yemen, on 12 Feb, 2013, as part of efforts to improve security in the country. Xinhua

Kenya’s electoral body faces time ahead of March elections

Nairobi, 13 Feb—Kenya’s electoral body, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), is conducting a flurry of activities in a race against time to win the citizen’s confidence ahead of the 4 March general elections.

The commission on Tuesday met with presidential aspirants and their running mates in Nairobi to sense their mood, as the elections voting process and the system that will be used in announcing the results.

“The results IEBC will announce initially will be provisional ones before Form 16A which will be duly signed at the polling stations by the presiding officers and agents and are physically received at the tallying centre in Nairobi,” IEBC Chairperson Ahmed Issack Hassan said.

Hassan said Kenyans will start to form a clear picture on the outcome of the general elections 48 hours after voting on 4 March, though the law allows them seven days to announce the results of the vote.

Hassan guaranteed Kenyans and the entire world of a credible and transparent election, saying the electoral body has already played its part and that it was now the turn of the contestant and the voters to do their part.

“We held fruitful discussions and the contestants promised to conduct peaceful campaigns devoid of violence, intimidation and bribery and that any dispute will be settled in court; all towards which they have signed a code of conduct.”

He said to ensure the speedy transportation of Form 16A to the tallying centre in Nairobi, all the presiding officers who will be more than six hours from travel Nairobi will be airlifted, whereas those less than six hours away will travel by road.

Citizens view artworks at the Shanxi Museum in Taiyuan, capital of north China’s Shanxi Province, on 12 Feb, 2013. Some citizens spent their Spring Festival holiday by viewing exhibitions in museums.—Xinhua

Chile’s high court ratifies preventive detention of Bolivian soldiers

SANTIAGO, 13 Feb—Chile’s Supreme Court on Tuesday ratified preventive detention of three Bolivian soldiers who were charged with illegally entering Chilean territory, an incident further straining ties between the two South American neighbors.

Chile’s Supreme Court voted four to one to uphold the detention of the Bolivian soldiers arrested on 25 January in a border town of Talagupapa.

Bolivia has said the soldiers, who were also accused of carrying weapons, were chasing a gang of car smugglers and there were no signs indicating a border crossing.

Hugo Gutierrez, a lawmaker from Chile’s Communist Party, has visited the soldiers being held in Alto Hospicio prison in northern Chile and argued on their behalf, calling for a political solution to the incident.

“The Chilean government knows that these soldiers are not criminals, and that they were chasing smugglers,” he said.

The Bolivian government, meanwhile, said Chile is using the soldiers for “political” reasons, and vowed to pursue all legal and diplomatic means available to free them.

Bolivian Defence Minister Ruben Saavedra said the issue “should have been resolved through diplomatic means,” but it has not happened despite Chilean authorities acknowledging it as an “isolated incident” in a note sent to Bolivia when they were arrested. Saavedra said “our defence is working in Chile to seek their release. If our legal actions make no progress, we will resort to international laws.”—Xinhua

Major General Anto Jelec from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) speaks at a military base in Sarajevo, BiH, Thursday, 14 February, 2013. Logistic Exercise 2013 (LOGEX 13) from 4 Feb to 15 Feb in Sarajevo. About 200 soldiers from NATO and member states of Partnership for Peace (PfP) took part in the exercise.—Xinhua

Kenyan electoral body votes as time ahead of March elections.

New Light of Myanmar
**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham stresses eternal peace**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—** Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham called on the responsible persons from the peace groups to meet with the pace making work committee occasionally as part of efforts for achieving eternal peace in the country.

In his speech, the Vice-President also urged all national races to take part in peace making process because the country lagged behind in development due to lack of peace in the country. Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of the committee U Thein Zaw and Union ministers presented gifts to the responsible persons of the peace groups of the national races.—**MNA**

**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Indian parliamentary delegation**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—** Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met a delegation led by Speaker of LOK SABHA of the Republic of India Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here, this evening. At the call, they exchanged views on parliamentary affairs between the two countries.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that he would like to extend a welcome to the Indian Speaker and parliamentarians and express thanks for the visit of Indian delegation. He believed that amity and cooperation between the two countries would be promoted through that tour.

The Indian Speaker said that she would like to take pride for paying a goodwill visit to Myanmar. He was very pleased as it was her first-ever visit to Myanmar. She had chance to visit the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session that morning. She believed that Myanmar would be on the world map as Myanmar’s reform processes had been assessed since two years ago.

After the meeting, the Indian Speaker presented Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker’s India tour documentary photos to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and they posed for documentary photo.

It was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairmen U Maung Maung Thein, U Hla Myint Oo, U Win Sein, U Soe Naing, U Thein Zaw, U T Khin Myat and U Htay Myint, Secretaries Dr Soe Yin and Daw Dwe Bu, committee chairmen Daw Zatalan and Daw Khin Saw Wai and officials from Hluttaw Office, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Sheshadri and officials.—**MNA**

**Union level Peace-making Committee**

**Vice-Chairmen meet responsible persons of Peace Groups**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb —** Vice-Chairmen of Union level Peace-making Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and U Thein Zaw met responsible persons of Peace Groups who attended the 66th Anniversary Union Day ceremony, here, this morning.

It was also attended by Union ministers, parliamentarians, deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Peace Centre and responsible persons of Karen National Union (KNU), Karen National Liberation Army, Peace Council (KNU/KNLA), Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), Chin National Front (CNF), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K), PaO National Liberation Organization (PNLO), New Mon State Party (NMSP), Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and Shan State Progress Party/ Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA).

Vice-Chairman U Aung Min made clarifications on ongoing peace-making process, prospects of making peace with KIO and follow-up programmes for holding political dialogue.

Those present also took part in discussions on implementation of peace-making process.—**MNA**

**Deputy Finance and Revenue Minister observes financial system of Japan**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—** At the invitation of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein visited Tokyo of Japan from 5 to 9 February.

The Myanmar delegation observed Japan’s financial system and banking services, stock exchange, printing of currency notes, making coins and the systems of Deposit insurance, Credit rating and Credit guarantee.

On 8 February, the Myanmar delegation met with Deputy Finance Minister of Japan Ms. Obuchi and openly discussed financial cooperation between the two countries, development of Daewi Special Economic Zone and SMEs and hosting of SEA Games in Myanmar.—**MNA**
Democratic nation for people

It’s so encouraging for us that our country Myanmar is now seeing signs of progress in her mission towards promoting relations with the international community, and her aims are: gaining knowledge, experience and resources in facilitating her development programs. At the same time the country recognizes her responsibility towards her citizens and development partners for producing the finest results from international cooperation.

Accordingly, Myanmar is committed herself to concentrating on implementing development priorities and plans involving the task of developing systems for dialogue and knowledge sharing across all levels of government at national, state, regional and local levels, engaging strongly with civil societies through participatory approaches, including providing greater voice to women, minorities and marginalized people, and seeking and considering the views of development partners.

In so doing the country is focusing on developing a culture of democratic practices that recognizes human rights and empowers citizens through participatory processes, strengthening the rule of law and improving access to justice and to information, creating a firm environment for civil societies to contribute to policy formulation, budgetary processes and delivery of services at the grass-roots level, pursuing market based, inclusive growth, equitable and sustainable development with a pro-poor focus to accelerate achievement of the MDGs, including by securing property rights, accelerating peace-building, political reforms and development initiatives to promote reconciliation and national harmony in recent conflict and cease fire areas. Moreover, Myanmar has high aspirations for people-centred development while staying focused on achievable results.

With all these national priorities the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has embarked on a far reaching reform programme to transform the country into a modern, developed and democratic nation that improves the livelihood of its people.

---

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Indian parliamentary delegation

Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaw’s U Khin Aung Myint holds talks with Speaker of LOK SABHA Smt Meira Kumar.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Feb—Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of LOK SABHA of the Republic of India Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar arrived at Amyotha Hluttaw, here, this afternoon.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaw’s U Khin Aung Myint received the Indian delegation, at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex. It was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaw’s U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Committees, secretaries and representatives, officials from Hluttaw Office and the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar.

The Speaker explained the formation of two Hluttaws with multiparty, all religions and all national races, holdings of Hluttaw meetings, Hluttaw’s undertakings and Myanmar’s political and economic reforms.

They had a cordial discussion on IT development, cooperation in agricultural and human resources development, parliamentary affairs between the two countries, study of India’s parliamentary experience and promoting amity and relations between the two countries.

After the meeting, they posed for documentary photo. Speaker of LOK SABHA Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar signed the visitors’ book.

Pyithu Hluttaw’s Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Chairperson meets Indian parliamentary delegation

Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met an Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker LOK SABHA Honourable Smt Meira Kumar at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, today.

Present at the call together with Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were officials of Hluttaw Office. The LOK SABAH Speaker was accompanied by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on India’s parliamentary experience, the exchange of experiences between the two parliaments, conducting parliamentary training courses, cooperation in flourishing developing a culture of democratic practices and providing necessary stationery for Myanmar’s parliament.

---

Quintana visits Central Jail (Insein)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana meets officials and prisoners at Insein Central Jail.—MNA

Yangon, 13 Feb—Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, accompanied by UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Ashok Nigam and officials, arrived at Insein Central Jail, here this morning and met Head of Yangon Region Myanmar Correctional Department Director U Maung Maung Aye and officials there.

After that, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana met prisoners freely and looked around the prison.

In the afternoon, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana met Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mya, Secretary U Sit Myaung, members U Tin Nyo, U Hla Myint, Dr Daw Than Nwe, U La Phaing Zaw Gion and U Khin Maung Lay at the Commission Office, on Pyay Road.—MNA
Sacred Hpo U Taung Hill

On the west bank of the Ayeyawady River, opposite to the sprawling town of Pyay, in the Irrawaddy Region, stands a majestic hill of over 900 feet high above sea level, well known as Hpo U Taung. It is situated in latitude 18° 50' N and longitude 90° 12' E, slightly to the north of Pyay town. On the summit there stands a not very large nor very small solid stupa, commanding a captivating panoramic view of the surrounding sceneries, most prominently the River Ayeyawady, lazily moving to the south with the busy town Pyay on its east bank.

Though quite sunny and humid is the weather of Pyay district, the breeze, coming in along the River and the emerald green vegetation on the hill ranges and the undulating terrains around sufficiently compensate for the head of daytime which gradually subsides after sunset. A chill breeze, coming in along the hill, there are twelve ogre hills (1) Hpawa U Taung (2) Hpo U Taung (3) Pwey U Taung (4) Siha Pabbata Taung.

On the hill, there are some natural caverns in which some holymen, ecologists and forest monks used to meditate. It is a miracle that though the monuments to be built in it. To-day this stupa is well known as Pyay Shwe Sandaw Pagoda. But the Buddha knowing the monuments fell into oblivion and the recipients intended to enshrine their sacred relics in a monument to be built on that hill that the relics of the previous Buddhhas would be enshrined in human domain as Buddha Sasana could spread and flourish among humans. He foresaw Lankadipa [Sri Lanka], Sre Kestra [Thailand], Tikitana [Tamilpand] as future places for the spread and flourish of his Sasana [Buddhism].

When Gotama Buddha arrived and sojourned on the summit of Siha Pabbata [“Hpo U Taung Hill”] he saw each of his three ogre friends on a ruby-studded couch in the summit of Siha Pabbata” [Hpo U Taung]. He foresaw Lankadipa [Sri Lanka], the Naga Serpent King four ogres and three ogre friends of Sandaw Pagoda to enshrine their relics in a monument to be built on that hill that the relics of the previous Buddhhas would be enshrined in human domain as Buddha Sasana could spread and flourish among humans. He foresaw Lankadipa [Sri Lanka], Sre Kestra [Thailand], Tikitana [Tamilpand] as future places for the spread and flourish of his Sasana [Buddhism].

When Gotama Buddha arrived and sojourned on the summit of Siha Pabbata [“Hpo U Taung Hill”] he saw each of his three ogre friends on a ruby-studded couch in the summit of Siha Pabbata” [Hpo U Taung]. He foresaw Lankadipa [Sri Lanka], the Naga Serpent King four ogres and three ogre friends of Sandaw Pagoda to enshrine their relics in a monument to be built on that hill that the relics of the previous Buddhhas would be enshrined in human domain as Buddha Sasana could spread and flourish among humans. He foresaw Lankadipa [Sri Lanka], Sre Kestra [Thailand], Tikitana [Tamilpand] as future places for the spread and flourish of his Sasana [Buddhism].

When Gotama Buddha arrived and sojourned on the summit of Siha Pabbata [“Hpo U Taung Hill”] he saw each of his three ogre friends on a ruby-studded couch in the summit of Siha Pabbata” [Hpo U Taung]. He foresaw Lankadipa [Sri Lanka], the Naga Serpent King four ogres and three ogre friends of Sandaw Pagoda to enshrine their relics in a monument to be built on that hill that the relics of the previous Buddhhas would be enshrined in human domain as Buddha Sasana could spread and flourish among humans. He foresaw Lankadipa [Sri Lanka], Sre Kestra [Thailand], Tikitana [Tamilpand] as future places for the spread and flourish of his Sasana [Buddhism].
All stakeholders have to assume responsibility...

Public desires were being realized by the democratically-elected government. Public aspiration was to end the armed conflicts and to make the country stand tall among the world nations. Participatory approach was needed to be able to fulfill the public will. Great strides were being made for ensuring internal peace. It took ages to achieve mutual understanding. Ceasefire agreements had reached at the negotiating table for cessation of more than 60-year-old armed conflicts. Both sides saw unfruitful results, suffering casualties and causing public panic. Those losses were losses to the nation, he said.

Thanks to roundtable negotiations, the nation had seen the rays of peace. People were glad to see good outcomes of the meeting with KIA group in Ruili on 4 February. The onus was on all of us to shape the future of the nation. It was necessary for ensuring a lasting peace through cooperation, he said.

Efforts to be made for reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges, buildings and houses while talks on eternal peace are being held. Livelihoods and job creation for those who returned to the legal fold, are a must. It also needs to deal with the clearance of land mines. Rehabilitation tasks are to be carried out with the assistances from home and abroad.

After that, officials from Peace Groups held discussions on follow-up programme for regional development and eternal peace and requirements.

Then, the President discussed agriculture and breeding for region-wise development and food security and presented gifts to those from Peace Groups.

MNA

C-in-C invites KIA to peace table

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets senior military officers from National Defence College, officers and other ranks from Nay Pyi Taw Command.—MNA

Refresher course No (5) for district level judges commences

YANGON, 13 Feb — Organized by the Union Supreme Court, the opening of refresher course No (5) for district level judges was held at the training school in Hlinethaya Township, here, this morning. The Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court elaborated the purpose of the refresher course, calling on the judges to perform their duties in judicature with dignity and a sense of duty.

A total of 42 trainees are taking the eight-week course.—MNA

Ambassador U Soe Nwe presents his credentials to Czech President

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, on 5 February 2013 in Prague.

MNA

Ambassador U Kyaw Tin concurrently accredited as Ambassador to United Mexican States

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Mexican States.

MNA

Workshop on transformation of SOE into Corporatization, Privatization and PPP held

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—“Transport sector development and better services are crucial for social needs and the expansion of economy”, said Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung at workshop on the Corporatization, Privatization and Public Private Partnership (PPP), at the ministry today.

Managing Director Mr Ong Chao Choonm of Assurance and Advisory Services (Price Water House Co. Ltd) shared experience on successful transformation of SOE into Privatization and Associate Director Mr Rosemary ONG, private sector development.

The workshop was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Transport and Singapore-based Price Water House Coopers Myanmar Co., Ltd. MNA
Five arrested over alleged drug import through Australian Customs

**Canberra, 13 Feb—** Five people were arrested on Wednesday by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on offences relating to an alleged conspiracy to import drugs through Sydney Airport, Minister for Justice Jason Clare announced in a statement on Wednesday.

According to the statement, two of these people are employees of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. These further arrests are the result of a two year investigation by the AFP, Customs and Border Protection Service and the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI).

Clare confirmed that those arrested are part of the same drug importation ring. “Two Customs officers have also been suspended for potential breaches of the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct,” he said.

“In December I said there would be more stings, more arrests and more reform. This is what is happening,” Clare said.

---

Indonesian FM appeals nuclear powers to back regional nuke-free zone

**Jakarta, 13 Feb—** Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa called on nuclear-weapon states to formally accede to the Protocol of the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty as a concrete step to maintain Southeast Asia free of nuclear arsenals here on Tuesday.

The SEANWFZ treaty signed in 1995 in Bangkok commits the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)’s 10 member states “not to use, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or have control over atomic weapons,” and it prohibits the storage and transfer of such armaments in ASEAN states.

The SEANWFZ treaty includes a protocol under which the five declared nuclear-weapon states, namely China, the United States, France, Russia and the United Kingdom undertake to respect the Treaty and rule out the use of nuclear weapons to attack or pressure treaty member nations.

“Since the signing of the Treaty, ASEAN has engaged nuclear—weapon states in negotiations toward their accession to the Treaty’s Protocol,” Marty said when delivering his opening address at a regional seminar on maintaining a Southeast Asia region free of nuclear weapons.

Marty said after a 10-year impasse, the negotiations of the revised Protocol were concluded in 2011 during Indonesia’s tenure as chair of ASEAN.

The negotiations between the ASEAN and the nuclear-weapon states on the protocol have been ongoing since May 2001. However, none of the nuclear-weapon states have formally signed this protocol.

“The reservations or declarations to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty should not become a constraint that would hamper the achievement of the signing of the Protocol of SEANWFZ Treaty by all nuclear-weapon states,” Marty said.

---

New Zealand air force helicopters cleared for limited use one year after delivery

**Wellington, 13 Feb—** The New Zealand air force announced on Tuesday that its controversial new NH90 helicopters had been cleared for “non-tactical” operations within the country a full year after the force began flying them.

The European-made medium utility helicopter had completed the first phase of its operational testing and evaluation, allowing it to “undertake some operational tasking,” Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Chief, Air Vice-Marshall Peter Stockwell, said.

“It’s a significant milestone for the RNZAF,” Stockwell said in a statement. “The NH90 is now cleared to undertake New Zealand-based passenger and cargo tasks that will enable non-tactical support to government agencies and the other services,” he said.

The NH90 incorporated new technologies and capabilities that represented a substantial improvement over the RNZAF’s fleet of aging Iroquois helicopters.

“While we still have plenty of work to do before the NH90 is cleared for full operational tasks and deployed situations, but good progress is being made,” Stockwell said.

So far four of the eight NH90 helicopters had been delivered, with the remaining four expected over the next year.

---

16 injured in train-truck collision in Hyogo, western Japan

**Osaka, 13 Feb—** At least 16 people were injured on Tuesday after a passenger train derailed following a crash between the train and a truck near a station in the western Japanese City of Takasago, Hyogo Prefecture, local press reported.

The accident happened at around 4:00 pm local time after the passenger train and the truck collided at a level crossing near the Arai Station in the city on Sanyo Electric Railway Line, and two carriages of the train derailed, according to the country’s public broadcaster Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK).

The report said 16 people, one with critical injuries, were carried to local hospitals adding that those carried were including passengers and both drivers of the train and the truck.

Television images also showed the first and second carriages of the train severely hitting the platform at the station, located some 100 meters southeast form the crossing, as well as electric poles nearby stuck down.

The report cited transport officials as saying that the railway’s alarm signaling system to detect obstacles around the level crossing has worked normally while local police are investigating the cause of the accident.

The train was heading to Osaka-Umeda Station from Himeji Station in western Hyogo. Since the accident, the railway operator has been suspending the passenger service in some sections on the line.

---

Singapore sends delegation to attend conference on Palestine in Japan

**Singapore, 13 Feb—** Singapore’s Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs Masagos Zulkifi, together with some officials from the foreign ministry, are going to attend the Conference on Counter-Terrorism among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development from 13-14 February, the city-state’s foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

During the conference, Masagos will be delivering an update of Singapore’s technical assistance to the Palestinian National Authority’s capacity-building efforts. He is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority Salam Fayyad, who will be co-chairing the conference with the government of Japan.

Ministers from South Korea and several other countries including Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam will also attend the conference. They get together to discuss effective ways of cooperation to help build peace in the Middle East.

---

Cambodia reports 7th bird flu case so far this year

**Phnom Penh, 13 Feb—** Cambodia reported on Wednesday that another 4-year-old girl has contracted Avian Influenza H5N1, becoming the seventh person who infected the virus in 2013.

Dr Denis Laurent, deputy director of Kantha Bopha Children’s Hospital, which is the kingdom’s largest pediatric hospital, said the victim is from Angkor Phnom Touch commune, Angkor Chey District in Southwest Kampong Thom Province.

She has received medical treatment at the hospital in Phnom Penh since last Wednesday. “Now, her condition is stable,” he told Xinhua over telephone on Wednesday. So far this year, five of seven confirmed human H5N1 cases have been fatal. The country sees the worst outbreak of the virus this year since the disease was first identified in Jun. 2004. To date, the country has recorded 28 human cases of the virus, killing 24 people.
KBZ BANK LTD. is pleased to inform all that
we have successfully opened
Lashio Branch (2)
Northern Shan State, Lashio
as 97th branch to date-effective 14.2.2013
All honored persons are kindly requested to come and
enjoy our cordial banking services at our newest branch.

KBZ Bank: The Strength of Myanmar

Contact Address:
Lashio Branch (2)
No. (26), Shan Zay Tan Street, Theinni Road, Region(7)
Ward-12, Lashio Gyi, Lashio.
Phone: (082) 22028, 22170, 22279, 22437, 22515, 22599
Fax: (082) 22671, 22742, 22748, 22749
www.kbzbank.com
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (328)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (328) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 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.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for: M/S Regional Container Lines**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

---

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV JUTHA PATTHAMA VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JUTHA PATTHAMA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 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.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for: M/S Seanet Shipping Co. Ltd.**

Phone No: 256916/256919

---

**Ministry of Information**

**News and Periodicals Enterprise**

**Invitation to Open Tender for Purchase of Nikkon Camera**

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase five items of Nikkon Camera D-7000 for News and Periodicals Enterprise.
2. Open tender forms may be drawn from the following address from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr daily during the period from 14-2-2013 to 25-2-2013.
3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 26-2-2013. The overdue forms will not be considered.
4. For further information, may dial 067-412123 and 067-412128 during the office hours.

---

**Vivienne Jolie-Pitt gets USD 3000 weekly for acting job**

Los Angeles, 13 Feb — Hollywood star couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt’s youngest daughter, Vivienne, is said to be earning USD 3,000-a-week on her first acting job.

The little one stars opposite her mother in Disney film “Maleficent”, reported TMZ Online. The four-year-old, who has a twin brother, Knox, is being given USD 60-a-day in expenses.

---

**Priyamani to do item song in Chennai Express**

Mumbai, 13 Feb — National Award-winning southern actress Priyamani has worked in Hindi films earlier but in Rohit Shetty’s Chennai Express she is doing her first ever item number.

The actress can’t wait to shoot for it as it would allow her to meet Bollywood superstar and the film’s lead actor Shah Rukh Khan. “I am very excited. I am just waiting for the shoot to happen so that I get to meet Shah Rukh Khan and to shoot with him,” Priyamani told IANS.

The actress, who won the National Award for 2006 Tamil film Paruthi Veeran, is doing an item song for the first time and said: “I have never done an item number. It is the first time and there is always a first time for everything.” With item numbers becoming a staple in Hindi movies and actresses like Katrina Kaif and Malaika Arora setting the benchmark, Priyamani, 28, is unperturbed about the competition. “I am not scared. That is a completely different league. They are excellent in what they do, which is fantastic. I am not going to be scared to be branded,” she confessed.

When it comes to playing lead roles in Hindi films, the actress, who made her debut in Raavan and Raat Akshar Paali, is very clear about what she wants. “You need to see what kind of offers come your way. Just because it is Bollywood, doesn’t mean that you have to take it. If something nice comes your way, I will take it up,” she said.

“It has to be something substantial. I am not saying that I have to do films like The Dirty Picture or Kaahani.”

---

**The Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr crowned NME Genius**

London, 13 Feb — Guitarist and songwriter Johnny Marr who made his name with cult British rock band The Smiths in the 1980s was named on Tuesday as the winner of this year’s NME Godlike Genius Award.

Marr, 49, founded The Smiths with Morrissey in 1983 and the two musicians co-wrote the band’s songs for four albums before going their separate ways in 1987.

The guitarist has also played with Billy Bragg, The Pretenders, The The, Modest House and The Cribs, and has led his own band, Johnny Marr and The Healers, for over a decade. Marr will collect the award on 27 February when the music magazine holds its annual prize ceremony in London — two days after he releases his debut solo album “The Messenger”.

“The NME seems to be good at giving this award to people I like so I’m in good company. I guess it means that some things are alright with the world,” Marr said in a statement. NME editor Mike Williams said Marr had played a role in re-writing the history of music with The Smiths, “He’s continued to push boundaries and evolve throughout his career, working with some of the best and most exciting artists on the planet,” said Williams.

Previous winners of the NME Godlike Genius Award include The Clash, Paul Weller, The Cure, Manic Street Preachers, New Order & Joy Division, and Dave Grohl.
**Daily News of Myanmar**

**SPORTS**

14 February, 2013

**New Light of Myanmar**

**SPORTS**

14

**Shorthanded Spurs still too much for Bulls**

**Los Angeles**, 13 Feb — The San Antonio Spurs took to the court without three of their top scorers to face Chicago on Monday but still had too much fire power for the Bulls, pulling out a 103-89 victory to pick up their 13th win in 14 games. Tony Parker (knee), Tim Duncan (knee) and Manu Ginobili (hamstring) all sat out for San Antonio, who own the best record in the NBA at 41-12, but a career-best 26 points from Danny Green kept the Spurs machine rolling.

“All of us are basketball players here, we’re competitive,” Leonard told reporters of the Spurs, who were also without Stephen Jackson for personal reasons. “That’s why we play the game. If we go in doubting ourselves, we’re already beat.” San Antonio clung to a 76-75 lead in the fourth quarter before a 19-5 run closed the door on Chicago. “One would hope you could play with anybody in our system, but it was a tough challenge tonight,” said San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich. “I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

Nate Robinson scored 20 points to pace the Bulls while Joakim Noah added seven and 15 rebounds for the home team, who faded down the stretch. The Bulls had dominated inside and outrebounded the visitors 49-26 but it did not seem to matter. — Reuters

**Napoli eyes Brazil striker Damiao**

**Rio de Janeiro**, 13 Feb — Napoli is reportedly preparing a bid to sign Brazilian international striker Leandro Damiao in the European summer transfer window.

The Italian Serie A club is looking for a possible replacement for Uruguay forward Edinson Cavani, who is on the radar of Manchester City, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. Brazil’s U17 reported on Tuesday that Napoli’s interest in signing Damiao could depend on the outcome of the club’s pursuit of Sampdoria’s Argentine striker Mauro Icardi, the report added. — Xinhua

**Williams, Sharapova cruise into third round in Qatar**

Doha, 13 Feb — Serena Williams began her campaign to return to world number one at the Qatar Open by beating Russian Daria Gavrilova, while Victoria Sharapova, among the American’s rivals for top spot, also progressed on Tuesday. Second-seed Williams, who will reclaim the number one position if she reaches the semi-finals, enjoyed a 6-2, 6-1 second-round win against the 160th-ranked Gavrilova.

The 15-times grand slam winner has not topped the rankings since October 2010, but is close to returning to the pinnacle having claimed last year’s Wimbledon and US Open titles. Williams, who has now won 57 of her last 60 matches, broke Gavrilova in the sixth game of the first set and then raced away with the match in 54 minutes. Question marks hung over the world number two’s fitness heading into the event after she lost in the Australian Open quarter-final last month while suffering with back and ankle injuries. “Mostly I’ve just been trying to play smoothly and avoid problems, and just do the things I’ve been working on,” Williams said on the WTA website (www.wtatennis.com).

“Physically I’m feeling better, and hopefully I can stay on that level. Let’s go onto the next round now.” Third-ranked Sharapova broke in the first game against France’s Caroline Garcia before cruising to a 6-3, 6-2 win in one hour and 16 minutes. It was a rematch of their tussle at the French Open two years ago when the Russian found herself 3-4 down before rallying for a three-set victory. “I had a really tough match against her in our previous encounter, so I really wanted to start better this time, as opposed to the way I started against her last time,” Sharapova said.

“I think she’s an up-and-coming player who is still making that transition from the juniors to the pros. It’s one of those tough things getting your feet on the ground with the game itself but I think we will be seeing her for many more years.” French Open champion Sharapova also has a slim chance of returning to the top spot but needs to win the tournament and hope Williams falls short of the last four and current world number one Victoria Azarenka fails to reach the final. Belarussian Azarenka gets her campaign underway with a second-round match against Romina Oprandi on Wednesday. — Reuters

**Snedeker withdraws from Match Play due to sore ribs**

**Pacific Palisades** (California), 13 Feb — American world number four Brandt Snedeker, a hottest player on the 2013 PGA Tour, has pulled out of next week’s WGC-Match Play Championship in Arizona because of sore ribs, organizers said on Tuesday. Snedeker, who clinched his second victory in his last six starts on the US circuit with a win at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Sunday, has been receiving treatment on his ribs since last month’s Humana Challenge. “I certainly will miss competing in the Accenture Match Play Championship, and I really do appreciate what Accenture does to make that one of the premier events on our schedule,” FedExCup champion Snedeker said in a statement. The 32-year-old, who is on holiday this week with his family in Hawaii, hopes to return to PGA Tour action for the March 7-10 WGC-Cadillac Championship at Doral. Snedeker, whoseizzling run of form dates back to the Tour Championship in September when he also earned FedExCup honors, first experienced soreness in his left rib cage during the 17-20 January Humana Challenge. — Reuters

**Barbosa sidelined for season due to knee injury**

**Washington**, 13 Feb — Boston Celtics guard Leandro Barbosa will be out for the rest of the National Basketball Association season due to a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee.

The 30-year-old suffered the left knee injury during Monday’s game against the Charlotte Bobcats. He is the third Celtic player lost for the season due to injury. Rajon Rondo also suffered a torn ACL last month and back surgery has put Jared Sullinger on the sidelines. — Xinhua

**Wheelchair great Vergeer retires after 10 years unbeaten**

**London**, 13 Feb — One of the most dominant records in sport came to an unblemished conclusion when Dutch wheelchair tennis player Esther Vergeer hung up her racket after an unbeaten decade on Tuesday.The 31-year-old, who claimed four Paralympic singles gold medals and three in doubles, won 470 consecutive matches and 120 successive tournaments, dropping only 18 sets during that time. Her career record stands at 700 wins and 25 defeats. She won every grand slam singles event she ever entered, racking up 21 singles and 23 doubles titles. — Reuters
S Korea’s jobless rate rises to 3.4 pct in January

SEOUL, 13 Feb—South Korea’s jobless rate rose above 3 percent for the first time in five months due to a seasonal factor, but job growth accelerated on the back of strong job creation in the manufacturing sector, a government report showed Wednesday. The unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in January, topping the 3 percent mark for the first time since August last year, according to Statistics Korea. The reading was up from 2.9 percent in the prior month.

The rise was attributed to a seasonal factor.—Xinhua

South Korean Park to get London Games soccer medal

LUSSANE, 13 Feb—South Korean footballer Park Jong-Woo will receive his bronze medal from the 2012 London Olympics despite triggering a diplomatic row in a match against Japan, the International Olympic Committee said on Tuesday.

The midfielder had held up a sign referring to a territorial dispute between South Korea and Japan while celebrating a bronze medal without fanfare or ceremony.

The extension was agreed on a new deal for the Venezuelan All-Star that is expected to replace the old deal would be delayed when an elbow issue was handed a sign, which read “Dokdo is our territory”, by a fan and was then forced to skip the medal ceremony. He was also banned by soccer’s governing body FIFA for two games and fined 3,500 Swiss francs ($3,800) in December. ($1 = 0.9157 Swiss francs)—Reuters

Deal should make “King Felix” richest pitcher

NEW YORK, 13 Feb—Felix Hernandez and the Seattle Mariners have agreed on a new deal for the Venezuelan All-Star that is expected to replace the old deal would be delayed when an elbow issue was also announced months ago, he is also a real objective for me.” Nadal will be aged 30 years and two months when the Olympics begin on 5 August in 2016. This week’s event marks the Spaniard’s first appearance in Brazil since winning the same tournament as an 18-year-old in 2005.

At the US Open in 2012, a Press conference on Tuesday. “I know it’s a long way from now but it’s also a real objective for me.” Nadal will be aged 30 years and two months when the Olympics begin on 5 August in 2016. This week’s event marks the Spaniard’s first appearance in Brazil since winning the same tournament as an 18-year-old in 2005.

It follows his defeat in Sunday’s Chile Open final to 73rd-ranked Horacio Zevallos 6-7 (2/7) 7-6 (8/6) and 6-4, his first competitive event since Wimbledon last June. Nadal is partnering Argentine David Nalbandian in the doubles, which began on Tuesday night, while he will start his singles campaign on Thursday against the winner of the Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo-Joao Souza match.

Despite an encouraging return in Chile, Nadal talked down his chances of lifting the singles trophy in Brazil. “After so many months away it’s difficult and illogical to think about winning titles,” the 26-year-old said. “Even though my knee continues to hurt me, the doctors say everything is fine and that my recuperation is going to plan.”

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
All stakeholders have to assume responsibility for ensuring long-term benefit by translating the temporary peace into a lasting peace.

ICH conducts course to provide hydropower technology

Engineers of the Ministry of Electric Power have received a training, jointly conducted by International Centre for Hydropower (ICH) of Norway and Centre for Hydropower Technology for development of hydropower sector, cooperation of the peoples and private sector, initiative and selling electric power to neighbouring countries.

The course on Hydropower Development-Joint Public Private Development of Hydropower was opened at the ministry here today.

In his keynote address at the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said the trainees would learn hydropower production technology for development of hydropower sector, cooperation of the peoples and private sector, initiative and selling electric power to neighbouring countries.

The course is aimed at providing hydropower production technology and assistance for the development of the hydropower sector to Myanmar.—MNA

The 8th day Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session in progress.—MNA

Role of cooperatives, tool to fight poverty

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with responsible persons of peace groups who attended the 66th Anniversary Union Day celebration.—MNA

"2013-2014 FY national planning bill seems good. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the appointment of General Myat Hein to the post of Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology and Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win to the post of Union Minister for Border Affairs as nominated by the President. U Khun Thein Pe of Hopong Constituency says, “2013-2014 FY national planning bill seems good.

But, for ethic people, I think it isn’t enough because we’ve suffered the consequences of armed conflicts. It needs to focus more on border regions to make sure inclusive growth and equitable development.”

The visiting Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of LOK SABHA Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar observed the session at the invitation of the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw.