Investment in education, the most profitable for the nation: President U Thein Sein

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein gives encouragements to a patient at Kalay District General Hospital.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—"Myanmar universities are networking with prestigious seats of education from South Korea, Japan and so on including John Hopkins University," said the President U Thein Sein as he visited Kalay University this morning.

He mentioned the increased budget on education and health in the time of incumbent government, saying that investment in education is the most profitable investment for the nation.

He recognized the lack of capital, technology and human resources against the abundant natural resources and the strategic position of the country as a bridge between South Asia and South-East Asia.

He sketched out the list of priorities as follows as regards the drive for economic growth: the first on the agenda is to establish labor-intensive factories and workshops not only in major towns but also in townships; the second is establishment of small and medium enterprises for production of value-added goods; the third is to set up heavy industry utilizing own natural resources; and the fourth is information technology development.

He called for establishment of training schools to nurture skilled labours to do above-mentioned works, saying the sole responsibility of teachers is to accumulate human capital.

He stressed the need for English proficiency to be on a par with global countries, demanding mastery of civilized citizens.

In this academic year, a total of 4697 day students and 3409 distance education students, totaling 8106 are learning at Kalay University.

The President and party then went to Kalay District General Hospital where they comforted patients and met medics and nurses.

He called on them to not only give medical treatment but also disseminating health knowledge to the public for disease prevention, calling for organizing wider educative talks in towns, wards and village.

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Indian parliamentary delegation concludes visit

Yangon, 15 Feb—The Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar concluded the visit and left here this evening.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun, region Hluttaw representatives, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri and departmental personnel.

—MNA
Arrival of new aircraft for AIR KBZ

YANGON, 15 Feb — Of two ATR 72-600 passenger aircrafts bought by AIR KBZ from France, the first aircraft arrived at Yangon International Airport on 11 February. The second aircraft will arrive in Yangon in June. Starting from the middle of the year 2013, AIR KBZ will provide extending its domestic flights to Nay Pyi Taw, Monywa, Homalin, Bhamo, Putao and Kyaukpyu, apart from its ongoing flights to Yangon, Mandalay, NyaungU, Heho, Lashio, Tachileik, Kengtung, Kalay, Myitkyina, Thandwe, Sittway, Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung with four ATR 72-500 and two ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft.

Farmland registration process in progress in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 15 Feb — Mandalay Region Land Records Department has been carrying out farmland registration process at respective townships since the early February. Under the supervision of the Mandalay Region farmland management committee, farmland registration process is in progress for 1,717,108 acres of farmlands in 25 townships of the region in accord with the farmland law and bylaws.

Union Government’s Cup Men’s and Women’s Bodybuilding and Model Physique Contest held

YANGON, 15 Feb — The final-day event of the Union Government’s Cup Men’s and Women’s Bodybuilding and Model Physique Contest was held in conjunction with prize-giving ceremony at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindama Road, here, on 12 February, with the participation of 46 male and 23 female contestants.

Seizure of pseudoephedrine tablets worth K 13.5 million in Tiddim

MANDALAY, 15 Feb — Under the supervision of Police Captain Hla Ko Ko of Kalay special anti-drug squad, a combined force led by Police Inspector Toe Naing Oo and Police Sub-inspector Win Naing of Tiddim Police Station seized 135,000 tablets that weigh 13.5 kilos while conducting a search of a motorbike driven by Kyint Swin Khaing together with Hauk Doh Paul who were heading for Kalay in Sagaing Region from Tongzon at mile post No (24/3) on Tiddim-Kalay road on 5 February. The seized pseudoephedrine tablets are worth K 13.5 million.

Thaton District IPRD organizes reading skill contest

THATON, 15 Feb — “Such kind of competition should be organized on a wider scale as it enables our children to broaden their horizons and to be good and able citizens”, a town elder said at the ceremony to award the winners of reading skill contest at Kumudra Library in Kyarpar Village of Thaton Township on 11 February.

General Store fire in Kyetkyi

KYETKYI, 15 Feb — A fire broke out at a general store which was being kept open on the ground floor of a three-storey building on Kyetkyi 2nd Street in Kyetkyi at about 3 am on 11 February. As a duty-conscious person from the opposite house informed the fire service department of the fire gutting the store, fire crews accompanied by seven fire engines rushed there. They managed to bring the flames under control at about 4.15 am and put out the fire in cooperation with local people at about 5.30 am.

Police arrest suspect of home burglary in Sangyoung Township

SANGYoung, 15 Feb — Police Sub-inspector Naing Thein (Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Commander’s Office) and a combined force on 8 February interrogated suspect Htein Lin Aung (a) Zaw Naing of Seikpyu Township, 20, who was in custody, charged with a case at Honebo Police Station in Zabathin Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ohndaw Village BEHS gets new school buildings, assembly hall in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 15 Feb — The opening of new school buildings and assembly hall for Ohndaw Village Basic Education High School was held at the village in Sagaing Township on 8 February.

On 6 February, the combined force searched a motorbike and seized 73,000 pseudoephedrine tablets (7.3 kilos) carrying in fuel tank of the motorbike.

Kyemon
UN nuclear talks with Iran fail, no new meeting set

VIENNA, 15 Feb—UN inspectors returned on Thursday from talks in Teheran with no deal on reviving a nuclear investigation and no date set for a new meeting, failing to produce even a small signal of hope for big power diplomacy aimed at averting a war.

“Despite its many commitments to do so, Iran has not negotiated in good faith,” said a Western diplomat accredited to the United Nations’ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna who was not at the talks. “It appears that we now have to ask ourselves if this is still the right tactic.”

The deadlock is a chilling signal for a wider effort by six world powers to get Iran to curb activity that they believe could give it the capacity to build nuclear bombs—something Israel has suggested it will prevent by force if necessary.

Further alarming its foes, Iran said this week it was installing advanced machines to refine uranium — a step that could significantly speed up its accumulation of material that the West fears could be used to develop a nuclear weapon.

A diplomatic source confirmed on Thursday that the IAEA, which regularly inspects Iranian nuclear facilities, had seen a small number of new-style centrifuges at Iran’s main enrichment plant at Natanz, positioned to be installed.

The UN watchdog had been trying since January last year to negotiate a framework that Iran would let inspectors resume a long-stalled inquiry into suspected atom bomb research by the Islamic Republic.

Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during a media conference at Iran’s embassy after he attended the Developing-8 summit in Islamabad on 22 Nov, 2012. wire service

Seven killed in suicide attack on army check post in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 15 Feb—At least seven people were killed and 15 others injured when a suicide bomber attacked a security check post in Pakistan’s northwest Province of Hangu on Thursday evening, police said.

Mian Saed, Deputy Police Officer said that the incident happened at about 5:30 pm local time when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive laden vehicle in to a check post in Tal area of Hangu, a main district in the country’s northwest Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The dead included two paramilitary troopers, two policemen and three civilians who were passing by the site when the blast happened, said Saed.

The check post, jointly owned by police and paramilitary troops, was destroyed in the attack.

Two army vehicles parked near the check post were also destroyed.

The injured were shifted to a nearby military hospital where several of them were in critical condition.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

“Police cordoned off the area and an investigation into the incident has been kicked off,”

This is the second major attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. Earlier in the morning, six suicide bombers were shot dead and two policemen got injured when a police station was attacked in Bannu District of the province.

Cars move on a flyover in the fog in Nanning, the capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 14 Feb, 2013.—Xinhua

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UN drones could deploy to Congo as early as June

KINSHASA, 15 Feb—Surveillance drones could be used by peacekeepers in the rugged hills of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the first such deployment of unmanned aircraft in a UN mission, as early as June, Congo’s prime minister said on Thursday.

UN drones could deploy to Congo as early as June

The Security Council approved their use last month in Congo’s porous and volatile borderlands, where UN experts claim a year-old rebellion has received support from neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda, a charge both countries deny.

“The process of acquiring drones has already been launched. By June or July they should be operational,” Augustin Matata Ponyo Mapon told reporters after returning from New York where he met Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

A spokesman for Congo’s UN peacekeeping mission, known as MONUSCO, initially asked for surveillance drones because the government of failing to honour a previous peace deal. They seized and held the eastern city of Goma for 11 days in November, dealing a severe blow to the image of MONUSCO, whose peacekeepers did not intervene to stop the well-equipped force, and reviving interest in the use of drones.—Reuters
Influential short-seller warns of bubble in 3D printers

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Feb — Shares of companies that sell 3D printers fell on Thursday after Citron Research said they were vastly overvalued and that the technology, highlighted this week by US President Barack Obama, has been hyped. Makers of 3D printers in recent years have turned an evolving technology used by makers for over two decades toward consumers, offering the prospect of producing everything from toys to tools in the home, and sending their share prices soaring.

Citron Research, run by short-seller Andrew Left, issued a report Thursday accusing 3D Systems’ Chief Executive Abe Reichental of exaggerating advances in 3D printing and contributing to a bubble in the shares of 3D printing companies. Such “technology manias have become completely unhinged from reality when it comes to the mania created in so-called ‘3D Printing’ stocks, and 3D Systems in particular,” Citron Research said. “Behold every good bubble there is a good promotie, in this case we have the best in Abe Reichental.”

More cyber extortion cases in Singapore last year

SINGAPUR, 15 Feb — The number of sexually-re- lated cyber extortion cases in Singapore involving foreign female suspects has more than quadrupled to about 50 cases last year, local media reported on Thursday. There were only 11 such cases in 2011, the police said. The victims are often men, typi- cally students, full-time na- tional servicemen or working adults who meet the women on social networking sites such as Tagged.com and Facebook, and add them as friends. They are then per- suaded by the women to strip and masturbate when they see the women naked or dancing.

Once the men are na- ked, usually while on video call with the women “friends,” the women end the session abruptly, claim- ing someone is at their door, the Straits Times said. The men later receive a message from the women, informing them that video footage had been taken of them in sex acts. The women then de- mand money and set dead- lines for payment. Some- times the men are given a link to a YouTube clip of their “performance.” It is not known how long these videos stay ‘live’ in each case.—Xinhua

US-based inventors lead world in nanotechnology patents

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — Inventors based in the United States led the world in nanotechnology patent appli- cations and grants in 2012, according to a new study by law firm McDermott Will & Emery. Nanotechnol- ogy involves manipulating matter that’s measured at the tiny “nanometer” length level. The diameter of a hu- man hair is between 40,000 and 60,000 nanometers, said Valerie Moore, a patent agent and one of the authors of the study.

Nanotechnology patents come into play in everything from aerospace to medicine to energy, the study noted. For example, the technology can be used to incorporate antibacte- rial material into wound dressings, to increase the strength of car parts while decreasing their weight, and to enhance paint col- ours. US-based inventors accounted for 54 percent of the nanotechnology pat- ent applications and grants reviewed in the study, fol- lowed by South Korea with 7.8 percent, Japan with 7.1 percent, Germany with 6.2 percent and China with 4.9 percent.

The study also looked at the geographic location of the owner of the nano- technology patents and proposed patents. If an in- ventor works in the Silicon Valley office of South Ko- rea’s Samsung Electronics Co, for instance, the US is home to the invention, but the South Korean employ- er might own the patent. McDermott’s intellectual property practice includes more than 200 attorneys and patent agents, and is one of the largest in the US for nanotechnology patent and appli- cations filings, according to information provided by the firm.—Reuters

New Light of Myanmar

Newnomausaurus at centre of custody case going home to Mongolia

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — A nearly complete 70-mil- lion-year-old tyrannosaurus bataar skeleton will be re- turned to Mongolia following the high-profile prosecution of a Florida paleontologist by federal authorities in New York, US authorities said on Thursday. A New York fede- ral judge ordered the skele- ton and other fossils forfeited to the US government this week after the paleontologist pled guilty in December to fraud and conspiracy.

E llen Davis, a spoke- woman for Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara said his office would return the 8-foot-tall (2.4 metre), 24-foot-long (7.3 metre), mostly reconstructed cous- in of the Tyrannosaurus rex. Mongolian officials demanded the skeleton’s return after paleontolo- gist Eric Prokopi sold it at a Manhattan auction last spring for $1.05 million. Mongolia suspected the skeleton had been smugg- led out of its fossil-rich Gobi desert.

US authorities filed charges against Prokopi and seized the skeleton, which is fossilized bones welded to a metal frame. In an- nouncing the seizure, Bhara- raa called Prokopi a “one man black market in pre- historic fossils.” Authorities accused Prokopi of having lied on US customs forms when he declared the fos- silized bones were worth $19,000.

In a New York court- room in September, Proko- pi’s defence attorney chal- lenged the charge that his client had lied on the forms, saying the reconstruction was not a single creature but bones from multiple dino- saurs. Mongolian authorities and US government pale- ontological experts believed it was a single creature. A federal judge suggested the skeleton might be a “Franken- stein model of dinosaur parts” and asked a prosecu- tor why government experts had not recognized that the skeleton was from several sources.—Reuters

Flextronics woo startups with Silicon Valley tech centre

MILPITAS, 15 Feb — Moving ideas from sketches on napkins to factory floors is often the toughest stage for a startup entrepreneur. Flextronics International Ltd thinks it can help with that. The contract manu- facturer, which produces the Xbox game console for Microsoft Corp and smart- phones for Google Inc, as well as networking equip- ment and other electronics on stock, has upped its cam- pus in Milpitas, California, with equipment aimed at creating product prototypes for customers in a hurry.

China has become the world’s factory floor over the past decade as incentives, low wages and entry into the World Trade Organization made it a highly efficient workshop for everything from shoes to electronics. But Silicon Valley companies as small as startups and as large as Google are increasingly looking to local contract manufacturers for help with design and early production of new electronics products, experts say. This reflects a nascent trend of “reshoring” manufacturing operations to the United States.

Flextronics and rival contract manufacturers like Foxconn and Jabil Circuit Inc already offer customers “value-added” help designing their products, advice on what compo- nents to use and whom to buy them from, and other value-added services. Sin- gapore-based Flextronics said it spent $12 million on the Milpitas upgrade, with plans to spend another $20 million in coming months.

The idea is to meet growing demand from companies in Silicon Valley that want to get products to market fast- er, site manager Zahid Hus- sain told Reuters this week. “Technology is chang- ing, Time to market is critical now,” Hussain said. “We’re providing end-to-end solu- tions.”—Reuters

More cyber extortion cases in Singapore last year

SINGAPUR, 15 Feb — The number of sexually-re- lated cyber extortion cases in Singapore involving foreign female suspects has more than quadrupled to about 50 cases last year, local media reported on Thursday. There were only 11 such cases in 2011, the police said. The victims are often men, typi- cally students, full-time na- tional servicemen or working adults who meet the women on social networking sites such as Tagged.com and Facebook, and add them as friends. They are then per- suaded by the women to strip and masturbate when they see the women naked or dancing.

Once the men are na- ked, usually while on video call with the women “friends,” the women end the session abruptly, claim- ing someone is at their door, the Straits Times said. The men later receive a message from the women, informing them that video footage had been taken of them in sex acts. The women then de- mand money and set dead- lines for payment. Some- times the men are given a link to a YouTube clip of their “performance.” It is not known how long these videos stay ‘live’ in each case.—Xinhua

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Chrysler recalls 370,297 trucks for fastener issue**

Chicago, 15 Feb—Chrysler Group LLC said on Thursday it was recalling 370,297 pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUV) because a loose fastener could cause the rear axle to lock up and make a driver lose control. The recall has implications for 370,297 vehicles globally. Affected are 2009 Dodge Durango and Chrysler Aspen SUVs, 2009-2011 Dodge Dakota pickups and 2009-2012 Ram 1500 pickups, according to a news release on the company’s official website.

Some rear axles were assembled with a fastener that can loosen and lead to failure. Chrysler Group dealers will install a retainer, at no cost to customers, which secures the fastener. Chrysler Group is unaware of any associated injuries. Customers will be notified directly if their vehicles are subject to recall. The recall is expected to begin in March.

This expands on an initial recall of over 44,000 pickups for the same issue last September. Chrysler recalled more than 44,000 Dakotas and Ram 1500 pickups for the same problem. Further review of customer complaints and field reports showed the problem also existed for vehicles not covered by the first recall, according to documents filed with the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

**The matchmakers behind the AMR-US Airways marriage**

New York, 15 Feb—After sitting out the industry’s last round of mega-mergers, airline giants the AMR Corp (AMRQR.PK), parent of American Airlines, and US Airways Group (LCC.N) are finally tying the knot. Meet the matchmakers: the financial and legal advisers for AMR’s unsecured creditors’ committee in bankruptcy.

Jack Butler, the Skadden lawyer representing the creditor panel in AMR’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy case, joined forces with investment bankers Greg Polle and Bill Derrough from Moelis & Co to make sure AMR management — which was not exactly keen on a merger during the case — would give consolidation a fair shake.

The trio of advisers also served as the go-between whenever the two carriers wouldn’t budge at critical junctures of negotiations, pitching compromise solutions that would work for both sides.

When AMR’s three largest unions publicly announced their support for a merger with US Airways on 20 April, the smaller rival also sent its first formal merger proposal to AMR and its creditors, people familiar with the matter said.

That undisclosed initial offer, which proposed AMR creditors and US Airways each own roughly half of the combined company, fell short of the eventual merger terms announced on Thursday and was largely ignored at the time, the people said. They did not want to be named because they were not authorized to speak to the press.—Reuters

**Hines puts two midtown Manhattan office buildings up for sale**

New York, 15 Feb—Two midtown Manhattan skyscrapers owned by international real estate firm Hines are up for sale, according to a source familiar with the deal, as sales of New York office buildings show signs of heating up. Hines, a privately owned, Houston-based real estate investment manager and developer, is selling 495 Park Avenue, the former headquarters of Bloomberg LP and the current headquarters of financial company Cantor Fitzgerald, the source said, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the sale.

It is also putting up for sale 425 Lexington Avenue, the headquarters of law firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, the source said.

**“High-glycemic” foods tied to diabetes risk**

New York, 15 Feb—People who eat a lot of low-salt and processed foods that quickly spike blood sugars may, not surprisingly, have a significantly higher risk of the most common form of diabetes, according to a new study. “By raising blood sugar and demanding that the pancreas keep pumping more insulin, meal after meal, day after day, a high-glycemic diet can put people at risk over the edge,” said Dr David Ludwig, who studies obesity at Boston Children’s Hospital but was not involved in the work.

The report analyzes 24 studies published since 1997 that tracked what 125,000 adults ate. The new study terms links prior researchers made between those so-called high-glycemic foods—including white bread and potatoes— to too little or too much salt. “Still, one blood pressure researcher not involved in the new study said the models don’t reflect the full picture of health consequences tied to too little or too much salt.”

Jim Dallman, of the University of California, San Francisco. Although the health effects of a salt cutback may be small for the average person, she said, the results show they add up when projected across millions of Americans.

Still, one blood pressure researcher not involved in the new study said the models don’t reflect the full picture of health consequences tied to too little or too much salt.

The findings highlight the potential ecological implications of even trace amounts of psychiatric pharmaceuticals that are excreted in human urine and survive waste-water treatment plant processes, scientists told a meeting in Boston of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. For the experiment, scientists divi-ded 75 wild European perch into three groups. One group lived in clean water. The second group’s water had low concentrations of Oxazepam, a commonly prescribed medication used to treat anxiety in humans.

The concentration was similar to what is found in wasteways downstream from sewage treatment plants. The third group’s water had 500 times the amount of Oxazepam typically found in wasteways.

A cook prepares fries in a cafe in a cafe in Bruges on 27 Sept, 2011.—Reuters

Perch exposed to human anti-anxiety drugs become isolated, aggressive - study

Boston, 15 Feb—Wild perch living in water tainted with a commonly prescribed human anti-anxiety drug aggressively feed, shun other fish and become careless, according to the results of a study presented at a meeting of scientists on Thursday. “We knew there was a pharmaceutical that was present in the environment that had behavioural-changing capabilities in humans, but what could this do to fish?” said chemist Jerker Fick of Umea University in Sweden.

The findings highlighted the potential ecological implications of even trace amounts of psychiatric pharmaceuticals that are excreted in human urine and survive waste-water treatment plant processes, scientists told a meeting in Boston of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. For the experiment, scientists divided 75 wild European perch into three groups. One group lived in clean water. The second group’s water had low concentrations of Oxazepam, a commonly prescribed medication used to treat anxiety in humans.

The concentration was similar to what is found in wasteways downstream from sewage treatment plants. The third group’s water had 500 times the amount of Oxazepam typically found in wasteways.

After a week, the fish were subjected to routine behavioral tests. “Before we exposed the perch to the drug they were all very shy. They were not taking any risks at all basically. After exposure, they were swimming around much more, like they were unconcerned, and they were not as social. They just want- ed to swim on their own.”

**US- wide salt reduction could prevent deaths**

New York, 15 Feb—The United States could prevent up to half a million deaths over the next decade if Americans cut their salt intake to within national guidelines, according to a new study. That finding — which comes the week New York City announced success toward its goal of cutting salt levels by one-quarter by 2014 — is based on computer simulations using data from various studies on the effects of extra sodium on blood pressure and heart risks.

A study from the Institute of Medicine recommends most healthy people get 1,500 milligrams (mg) of sodium per day, with an upper limit of 2,300 mg. But the average American eats more like 3,600 mg each day, largely through processed food. “Reducing sodium intake is important for everyone, not just a small subset of people who are salt sensitive,” said Pamela Coxson, the study’s lead author from the University of California, San Francisco. Although the health effects of a salt cutback may be small for the average person, she said, the results show they add up when projected across millions of Americans.

Still, one blood pressure researcher not involved in the new study said the models don’t reflect the full picture of health consequences tied to too little or too much salt.

**The tail sections of a newly designed American Airlines aircraft (L), a US Airways aircraft (C) and a traditional American Airlines aircraft are lined up at Dallas-Ft Worth International Airport on 14 Feb, 2013.—Reuters**

**A cook prepares fries in a cafe in a cafe in Bruges on 27 Sept, 2011.—Reuters**

**Devices used to take blood pressure, temperature, and examine eyes and ears rest on a wall inside of a doctor’s office in New York on 22 March, 2010.—Reuters**
In Mali town, counter-insurgency task ties down French

French soldiers search people at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Gao, Mali on 14 Feb, 2013.— Reuters

Gao (Mali), 15 Feb — By the slow-moving Niger River at Gao, the north Malian town retaken by French troops from Islamist rebels last month, men repairing fishing nets beside beached pirogues, women wash pots and children splash in the muddy water.

The scene looks tranquil enough but the French soldiers and their allied troops from Niger on the riverbank are不錯 unleashing their weapons and spanking south-west across the water to the village of Kadji, shrouded by eucalyptus trees.

Locals living along the bank have identified Kadji as a hotbed of al-Qaeda-allied jihadists who last weekend surprised the French, Malian and Nigerian troops in Gao with two suicide bombings and a daring foray into the heart of the town.

Since Sunday’s attack, the French and their African allies have been busy hunting down rebel suspects and dismantling bomb-making factories in the sprawling mud-brick Saharan town in a counter-insurgency operation that is tying them down.

“After Sunday, securing Gao is our priority,” said a French officer who, like many involved in the operation, asked not to be identified. “Once we have done this, we will move out of town to help the Malians neutralise these pockets of Islamists.”

The house-to-house searches, sandbagging of fixed defensive positions and reliance on tip-offs from locals already have the hallmarks of an arduous counter-guerilla operation.

The need to secure Gao, hundreds of kilometers behind the French forward lines where commandos are hunting for Islamist hostages believed to be held in rebel mountain hideouts, is driving the focus from France’s five-week-old campaign.

France’s military operation, which started in Bamako, the southern capital, and drove 1,700 km (1,050 miles) northwards to Tresalt near the Algerian border, initially forced the bulk of the Islamist forces from the main northern towns of Gao and Timbuktu, earning global plaudits for French President Francois Hollande.— Reuters

A police car is seen damaged by an explosion near a security checkpoint in the city of Khasavyurt, in the Provinve of Dagestan, on 14 Feb, 2013. — Reuters

Suicide bomber kills three police in Russian Caucasus

MOSCOW, 15 Feb — A suicide bomber detonated explosives at a security checkpoint as police stopped his car for a routine check. Behind the wheel was a terrorist suicide bomber, the ministry statement said. “When police officers walked up to the car, he detonated the explosive device.”

One person remained accounted for and six police were taken to hospital, officials said.

Dagestan, on the eastern edge of the Caucasus mountain chain, has emerged as the epicentre of the Islamist insurgency. It was unclear how many people were in the car, but the Interior Ministry said that the original target was likely in Khasavyurt.

Russian police are under orders to clamp down on insurgent violence across the North Caucasus ahead of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics. Putin told security officials last year to prevent attacks on the major events that Russia will host in coming years, including the 2018 World Cup.

Putin was to meet senior officials from the Federal Security Service, the domestic intelligence agency, on Thursday to outline their priorities for the year.

Children of Europe’s debtor countries pushed into poverty

BRUSSELS, 15 Feb — Almost a third of children in Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Italy and Spain have been pushed to the brink of poverty by austerity measures that are creating a generation of poorly-fed young people with low morale and few job prospects as the number of children at risk of poverty continues to rise, the charity said, citing EU statistics.

“This could be a recipe not just for one lost generation in Europe but for several lost generations,” Caritas said. Since 2010 Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain have received tens of billions in loans from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund in return for spending cutbacks and tax rises. Indebted Italy has not received an international loan.

In all five of these countries the increasing rate of children close to poverty coincides with the height of the crisis in 2008 and rises year-on-year to 2011. Statistics for 2012 are not yet available.

The charity blames children’s growing impoverishment on family-unfriendly cuts to welfare, unemployment benefits, rising value-added tax and increased fuel duties.

It has become an established fact that children are more at risk of poverty than any other demographic,” Deidre de Burca from Caritas said. Figures from the European Commission show that in 2011 over 30 percent of children in Spain and Greece were at risk of poverty or exclusion, a four percentage point rise since 2005. In Portugal that figure is just below a third at 28.6 percent.

The 2011 figures for Ireland and Italy were not available. In 2010 37.6 percent of children were at risk of poverty or exclusion in Ireland and 28.9 percent in Italy.— Reuters

Two Tunisian radicals killed in Syria’s Aleppo airport attack

TUNIS, 15 Feb — Two Tunisian radicals were killed during the attack that took place on Tuesday against Aleppo’s international airport in Syria, the Tunisian Shems FM radio station reported on Thursday.

The pair, identified as Abdelkamal el-Hani, 29, and Tarek Jellali, 40, joined the ranks of the Salafist Jihadist organization, Al Nour Front, which are engaged in fighting against the Syrian administration, the report said. Hani was sentenced to 15 years in jail for belonging to the Soliman Islamic militant group which was dismantled in 2007, but was released following a general amnesty decree issued by Tunisia’s transitional authorities after the ouster of former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, according to one of his relatives.

Recently, Abou Iyadh, a Tunisian Salafist leader currently wanted by the Tunisian authorities, asked some 12,000 Tunisian Islamic radicals fighting in the Middle East and Mali to return home, Tunisia’s Ansar El Shariah website said. Eleven Tunisians were among the Islamist radical group that attacked the Algerian gas plant at In Amenas last month, in which at least 38 hostages were killed.— Xinhua

1.5 m USD demanded for each victim of Brazil’s nightclub fire

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Feb — A Brazilian consumer protection agency on Thursday filed a claim of 3 million Brazilian reals ($1.5 million US dollars) for each family of the 239 victims killed in Brazil’s recent nightclub fire.

The National Association for the Fulfillment of Legal Obligations (Anecol) also filed a 300,000-real (150,000-dollar) claim for each of the nearly 100 people who were injured in the late January blaze, Brazil’s worst fire in 50 years.

The claims were filed against the local government of Santa Marta, where the “Kiss” nightclub was located, and against the club’s owners and the band that was performing in the club, Anecol lawyer Walter Euler Martins told reporters.

Survivors from the blaze recounted that playwright Zeno de Almeida, who has a habit of staying up late, did not ignite the ceiling’s highly flammable soundproof foam, which in turn released toxic fumes.

“The local authorities had the obligation of inspecting the nightclub’s operation, the band may have caused the fire and the owners of the club had allowed overcrowding,” Martins said.— Xinhua
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Power back to Myitkyina, Waingmaw**

Myitkyina, 15 Feb—Electricity cut out at 66 KV power line that supplies electricity to Myitkyina and Waingmaw through Mali Hydropower Plant as of 24 December 2012. Although electricians from Buga Electricity Supply Co tried to repair the power lines, mission failed due to lack of stability and peace in the region. Now, peace and stability has been restored in the region.

Therefore, a total of 50 electricians and skilled workers led by Supervisor U Hla Aung of Buga Electricity Supply Co worked out repairing works. On 3 February, the power line turned into normalcy for supply of electricity to Myitkyina and Waingmaw Townships.

**Billboard erected to combat trafficking in person in Myeik**

Myeik, 15 Feb—A ceremony to unveil the billboard for anti-human trafficking was held in front of Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik on 4 February morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo of Myeik District, Commander of Myeik District Police Force Police Lt-Col Shwe Nyar Maung and Project Manager U Zaw Min of World Vision-Myeik formally unveiled the signboard. After that, pamphlets on prevention against trafficking in person were distributed to those present.

**Loans disbursed to sculptors in Hlegu Township**

Hledu, 15 Feb—As part of effort for lift poverty in rural areas, a ceremony to disburse loans to 47 sculptors of South Dabein Village in Hlegu Township was held on 25 January.

Under the supervision of Yangon Region Government and with the assistance of the Region Rural Regional Small-scale Industries Development Sub-committee, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint and Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe presented K 15 million to the sculptors and viewed their works. The ceremony was attended by the township administrators, township level officials and local people.

**Driving course conducted in Magway**

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—The basic driving course no 1/2013 was opened at the Cargo Branch (Magway) of Road Transport under the Ministry of Rail Transportation in Magway Region on 31 January.

Magway Region Minister for Transport U Win Pe made a speech on the occasion.

A total of 45 trainees attended the course.

**Tourism industry earns more FE for State**

Globetrotters are mostly interested in tourism services of Myanmar. As a result, arrival of tourists was on increase in January 2013 more than that of last months.

Tourists from Asia, West Europe, North America, Oceania countries, Middle East countries, Africa and other countries visited Myanmar.

In 2012, those from Thailand hit 94342 which were the highest in number of tourists who came from Asian countries. Chinese tourists who stood the second position reached 70805.

Among European countries, there was arrival of 30064 French tourists in Myanmar, 24296 of Britain and 22036 of Germany in first, second and third positions.

The visitors came Myanmar through Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport, border gates and waterways.

**Buddha Pujaniya for Thadukan Pagoda in Shwepyitha Township**

Yangon, 15 Feb—The Buddha Pujaniya of Thadukan Hsandawshin Pagoda will be held on a grand scale in Thadukan Village of Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region from 23 February to 3 March.

The Pujaniya will include offering of alms to the Buddha image, the consecration of Buddha image, offering of rice to members of the Sangha, making Htumane meal and offering of Sattudsa refreshment to members of the Sangha and congregation.

A plan has been arranged for festivities comprising sales of domestic foods and snacks, entertainments of theoretical drama troupes, competitions of Myanmar traditional cave-ball and plays of children. Shops will be allotted to shopkeepers two weeks ahead of the Pujaniya.

**Stake driven for village library in Ponnagyun**

Ponnagyun, 15 Feb—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Shwe Nat Pyi library to be built with K 1 million contribution of the Union government was held in Padetha Village of Ponnagyun Township in Rakhine State on 2 February.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Hla Kyaw Pru accepted cash donations from Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Chit Tun and wellwishers.

**Denmark’s Haldor Topsoe eyes fertilizer investment in Myanmar**

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint called for greater cooperation between Myanmar and Denmark to boost the bilateral trade volume at the meeting with a delegation led by Vice-President Ulrik Federspiel of Haldor Topsoe of Denmark and Commercial Counsellor Mr Bo B. Rasmussen of Denmark’s Haldor Topsoe.

They gave an account of their study visit for establishment of Chemical Fertilizer Plant in Myanmar, saying that Myanmar as an agro-based country needs fertilizer and pesticides.

The visiting Haldor Topsoe vice-president and the commercial counsellor gave an account of their study tour of Myanmar, seeking economic prospects and confirming Denmark’s recognition of reform processes in Myanmar. They said that Topsoe Ltd was a leading company with 60 per cent share in world fertilizer market.

**Inter-village bridge inaugurated**

Kalay, 15 Feb—A ceremony to open Natdaga Creek Bridge near mile post 14/4 on Kalay-Yazayu road, northwest of Kalay, was held on 30 January, attended by Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye.

The bridge is 197.5 feet long and 16 feet wide steel beam and RC type floor. Its clearance is 16 feet high.

The bridge was built at a cost of K 218.65 million. The facility plays an important role in smooth and better transportation for rural people in Kalay Township.

The local people are delighted at construction of the bridge, seeing their glister future in smooth transportation.
Let’s work together to save mighty Ayeyawady

It is in some countries which buy water from other countries to make artificial rivers in their country.

In Myanmar, long rivers, such as the Ayeyawady, the Chindwin and the Thanlwin are flowing across the country from north to south, to the sea. If the fresh water which flow into the sea are stored systematically, it would benefit the agricultural, hydropower, environmental conservation, forestry and inland water transportation sectors in the country.

Today, some rivers including the Ayeyawady, the country’s largest and most important waterway, is facing environmental problems.

Among the issues that should be addressed are the impacts of deforestation, mining and the construction of dams and bridges.

The Ayeyawady, which drains much of Myanmar, is very high in sediment. The excess sediment in the river is caused by deforestation and agricultural growth in the Ayeyawady River basin.

Today, there are 37 defiles of the river in the summer and they are caused by the environmental degradation and by actions of human. The defiles of the river are hindrances to the navigation, leading to some delays in water transportation services.

To solve the challenges to the water transportation services, the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has been taking measures based on the River Bed Regulation to improve the river system.

Meanwhile, the directorate signed an MoU with SBE nv Engineering Co Ltd to study possibilities for improvement and all-round development of the River Ayeyawady recently.

All in all, the peoples are urged to participate in saving the mighty river by minimizing the impact of development and resource extraction on waterways.

Forest reserves tipped to bring about economic growth

NAV PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Forest reserves act as a catalyst for safeguarding the biodiversity contributing towards the economic development of the local people, Union Minister U Win Tun said in his speech at the national level workshop on Man and Biosphere at the ministry yesterday morning.

The designation of biosphere would ensure the sustainable development of the locals, he added.

Director of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme Mr Thomas Schaaf, EU Programme Officer Mrs Brissonneau Denphine and Country Director of Fauna & Flora International (FFI) Mr Frank Momberg also attended the workshop.

There are currently 610 biospheres in 117 countries around the world while Myanmar has 36 natural forest reserves that cover 5.6 percent of the whole country where eight more ones are intended to be set up.

The meeting held through today featured round of discussions on conservation of Indawgyi Lake, Inlay Lake, Mainmahla Island and other forest reserves by local and international scholars.—MNA

Loikaw District gets new court

Loikaw, 15 Feb—Kayah State government commissioned its 70-million-kyat new office building of Loikaw District Court yesterday.

After unveiling the signboard, State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo accompanied by Chief Justice of State High Court U Kyaw Lin Maung, State ministers, State advocate-general and the state auditor-general looked around the new court built with the funds allotted by Kayah State government.

The State Chief Justice, State Transport Minister U Chit Hla and State Chief Judicial Officer U Ko Ko Oo formally opened it.

The principle town of the district, Loikaw is also the capital of Kayah State.
**NATIONAL**

**Objectives of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2013**

1. To uphold the national policy namely non-dis-integration of the Union, non-dis-integration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty;
2. To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw joining hands with all national races with Union Spirit and the true patriotism in line with the Constitution
3. To crush all destructive elements at home and abroad through the strength of State, People and Tatmadaw
4. To build up a strong, competent, modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the security and sovereignty of the nation

Union Attorney-General meets officials of Nishimura & Asahi Law Firm from Japan

**Union Foreign Affairs Ministers tours UK, France**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—** Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received a delegation led by Mr. Go Hashimoto of Nishimura & Asahi Law Firm of Japan, at international hall of Attorney-General of the Union Office this noon.

At the call, both sides discussed training of corporate law for Myanmar lawyers and business law development programmes.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Kyaw Hsan and officials from the Union Attorney-General Office.—**MNA**

**Local companies invited to Int’l Halal exhibition**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—** The Embassy of Malaysia and MATRADE Yangon is inviting companies in Myanmar to participate in the Individual Business Meeting (IBM) sponsored by Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is a trade exhibition on halal goods in the category of foodstuff, food ingredients, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products. 

**Halal principle** is basically producing goods adhering to strict cleanliness, hygienic and safety conditions. 

Halal goods are endorsed with a special halal logo.

The sponsorship offered to serious buyers comprised of free three night accommodation in a four-star hotel with breakfast, airport transfers, local transportations from the hotel to the meeting and exhibiting venues, networking lunch and cocktail on the IBM day, arrangements of all meetings and visit to MATRADE Permanent Exhibition Centre displaying more than 500 products.

Interested buyers can contact MATRADE at Tel: 01-2220489/8 or email your contact details to: yangon@matrade.gov.my / rajah@matrade.gov.my / matradeyeonan@gmail.com by 25 February 2013. **—MNA**

**Work on Mon civilization wins Tun foundation literary award**

**YANGON, 15 Feb—** The Chronicle of the Mons & the Collection of Histories of their Pagodas, a translated work of ancient literature on the earlier civilization in Myanmar by Saw Mra Aung, collected one of Tun Foundation Literary awards announced today.

**Former chief of Meteorology and Hydrology Department Maung Tun Lwin** (MHD) won the prize for environmental conservation genre.

Maung Wuntha, a veteran journalist, was awarded for his Dictionary of Modern Politics while Maung Ko Ko (Amarapura) was named as winner of belles-letters genre for his work “We pay homage to our Pagoda”. Nyan Win (Zeegon), the former Foreign Minister, earned non-fiction award with his work “Modern Diplomacy”.

The date of the award giving ceremony will be announced later.—**MNA**

**Chin State Day changed into Chin National Day**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—** According to the agreement between the Union Peace-making Group and the Chin National Front (CNF), Chin State Day which falls on 20 February every year will be changed into Chin National Day as of this year.

The 65th Anniversary Chin National Day celebration will be organized on a grand scale not only in towns and villages of Chin State but also in other regions where Chin national races live.

Halwaw representatives have been invited to attend Chin National Day celebration to be held in National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw”, said a member of the committee for holding the 65th Anniversary Chin National Day.

“Chin National Day will be observed in Than Tlang from 12 to 20 February on a grand scale”, said a townelder Dr Hmu Than.

Every 20 February Chin National Day was held after regaining the independence. Chin State came into existence under the 1974 Constitution. Since then, the government has allowed this day as Chin State Day.—**NLM 001**
BAMAKO, 15 Feb—Mali would hold presidential and legislative elections in July, a key step in stabilizing the West African country in the wake of a war against rebels, the government said on Thursday.

The first round of the presidential vote is scheduled for 7 July. Territorial Administration Minister Moussa Sinko Coulbaly told a news conference.

Legislative elections were set for 21 July, along with a second round of the presidential election if a run-off was needed, he said.

A candidate will need to garner more than 50 percent of the vote to win in the first round, otherwise a second round run-off will be held between the two leading contenders.

Earlier, Mali’s transitional President Dioncounda Traore has announced elections would be held on 31 July. The Malian government hopes to hold early elections to end the crisis unleashed by a military coup that ousted former President Amadou Toumani Toure in March 2012 and the occupation of northern Mali by rebels since April last year.

Northern Mali has been occupied by radical Islamists after fighting broke out in January 2012 between government forces and Tuareg rebels. The conflict prompted the Malian government to request assistance from France to curb the military advance of extremist groups.

France intervened in its former colony on 11 January, after the rebels began pushing south, raising alarms that they were inching closer toward the capital of Bamako.—Xinhua

Over 16 tons of hamburgers destroyed in Cyprus after horsemeat scandal

nicosia, 15 Feb—Over 16 tons of hamburgers, including an Israeli air strike on 30 January.

Iran has strongly backed Assad during the uprising in which the United Nations says nearly 70,000 people have been killed. In September, the Revolution-ary Guards commander-in-chief said his force was providing non-military support in Syria and might get involved militarily if there were foreign intervention.

Syria, where Assad’s Alawite minority is an offshoot of Shi’ite Islam and the majority of the population is Sunni, has become a proxy battleground for a regional confrontation between non-Arab Iran and Sunni-ruled Arab powers, such as Saudi Arabia.

Last year, Syrian rebels kidnapped 48 Iranians whom they accused of being Revolutionary Guards fighters while authorities in Tehran insisted they were pilgrims. The men were freed this year in a prisoner swap with Iranian authorities. Details of Ko-shnevis’s killing, which Iranian news agencies said happened on Tuesday, were sketchy and Iran’s envoy to Beirut drew a link with Israel.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, April 15—Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in Syria’s civil war, a UN official said on Thursday.

While acknowledging the project, there would be no immediate effect, as vehicle production and service would not resume until the government provides permission to work, the minister said.

The project, there-fore, will target selected species, such as cattle, small ruminants (sheep and goats), pigs and poultry and a deliberate ef-fort must be made to give special attention to female members while other direct benefits will include training for 560 staff members in the Ministry of Agriculture.” he was quoted as saying by the paper.

While acknowledging the potential the livestock sector has, the Zambian minister said the industry still faces various challenges, mainly caused by extension services, poor breeds, poor quality feed, high disease incidences and low value addition.

About 1.1 million farmers who keep livestock will benefit indirectly from the project through improved control of animal diseases while value-chain stakeholders will profit from increased animal supply numbers, he added.

Over 16 tons of hamburgers destroyed in Cyprus after horsemeat scandal

Significant numbers of road deaths dropped 18 percent in the second half of 2013, according to the Federal Highway Police, 157 traffic deaths were reported on Brazil’s federal highways during this year’s Carnival holiday, down from 192 last year. The overall number of road accidents also dropped 10 percent to 3,149.

The decrease is even more significant considering the rise of Brazil’s vehicle numbers — from 70.5 million to 76 million during last year.

Brazil first toughened its laws against drunk driv-ing in 2008 to combat the second biggest killer in the country.

However, the official could not say whether the meat products had been de-stroyed because they were found to contain horsemeat or because they had expi-red.

Cypriot authorities have asked five importers of frozen meat products such as hamburgers to withdraw them from outlet shelves. Three of them were allowed later to sell their products after they provided certifi-

Tougher driving rules cut 18 percent deaths during Brazilian Carnival

In December 2012, the government intro-duced even stricter rules, along with more patrols and the government introduced several new laws that cut the death toll by 18 percent.

Rio de Janeiro, 15 Feb—Brazil’s tougher laws against drunk driving seem to be paying off as the num-ber of road deaths dropped 18 percent during the Carni-val holiday from last year, the government said on Thursday.

According to the Fede-ral Highway Police, 157 traffic deaths were reported on Brazil’s federal highways during this year’s Carnival holiday, down from 192 last year. The overall number of road accidents also dropped 10 percent to 3,149.

The decrease is even more significant considering the rise of Brazil’s vehicle numbers — from 70.5 million to 76 million during last year.

Brazil first toughened its laws against drunk driv-
Manila, 15 Feb — The Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) admitted on Friday that the chance to rescue alive five missing miners in central Province of Antique might be “slim.”

NDRRMC executive director Eduardo del Rosario said that as early as 5:00 am local time on Friday, search and rescue operation in the mining site of Semi-rara Coal and Mining Corporation in Caluya, Antique resumed. So far, he said, five people were still missing, five were confirmed dead and only three were rescued.

“There’s a slim chance (to rescue alive the five missing), but let’s hope for the best,” Del Rosario said in a television interview.

He said about 500,000 tons of soil collapsed in the mining site at around 11:54 pm on Wednesday.

“I was assured by the company that there were only 13 people (in the area when the landslide incident occurred). They are certain about it,” he said, noting that the other workers were on a break that time. Semi-rara Coal and Mining Corp, the country’s biggest coal mining company, assured that they will attend to all the victims, Del Rosario added.—Xinhua

Indonesian ruling party chairman signs integrity pact to rebuild image

Jakarta, 15 Feb — Anas Urbaningrum, chairman of Indonesia’s ruling Democratic Party, signed on Thursday the so-called integrity pact intended to save his party from breaking apart and regain popularity for the upcoming elections.

“This is the continuation of integrity pact signing that was led to Sunday in Cikacea,” Anas said after signing the pact in Democratic Party’s headquar ters here.

The eight-point integrity pact was aimed at affirming commitments of the party’s leaders in carrying out the party’s ideals and upholding clean political ethics, Anas was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

New Zealand manufacturing expansion fails to bring jobs

Wellington, 15 Feb — New Zealand’s manufacturers are having an easier time this year with a best performance of the manufacturing index (PMI) in eight months, but the sector’s expansion has failed to lead to job growth, according to the BNZ-Business New Zealand PMI for January.

The PMI for January was up 4.8 points from December to 55.2 on a scale on which a reading of above 50 indicates expansion and below 50, contraction. The result was the highest since May last year and the highest January result since 2007.

Business New Zealand Executive Director for Manufacturing Catherine Beard said the January result reflected nuances in the manufacturing sector at a time when headlines had concentrated on job losses and the employment index had been in contraction for eight straight months.

“What we are seeing with the broader results is that job losses do not equate with overall declines in activity, as three of the last four months have shown growth in the sector,” Beard said in a statement.

A healthy lift in new orders for January, along with continued recovery work in the earthquake-battered Canterbury region, should assist production levels in the months ahead.

“Obviously, it is too early to provide any indication whether 2013 looks set to be a better year for New Zealand manufacturers than 2012. However, looking more broadly, the JPMorgan Global Manufacturing PMI was at a 10-month high in January, with expectations that this may strengthen further in the next few months,” she said.

BNZ economist Doug Steel said in the statement that the results showed growing anxiety among manufacturers who supplied the slowing Australian economy, while positive- ity was increasing among those associated with the much anticipated lift in domestic construction activity.—Xinhua

Singapore faces nurse shortfall for years to come

Singapore, 15 Feb — Singapore will not be able to produce enough nurses for its own needs for years to come, despite plans to increase the number of locally trained nurses from 1,700 a year at present to 2,700 a year, local daily Straits Times reported on Friday.

Figures for the past decade from the Singapore Nursing Board suggest that the country’s health system will have to recruit between 1,000 and 2,000 foreign nurses each year to meet the rising demand for healthcare that comes with a growing and rapidly ageing population.

Singapore is planning to steadily expand its medical services, which is expected to lead to a competition for local nurses among the hospitals, nursing homes and clinics.

A new community hospital in the District of Yishun will be opened later this year, followed by the opening of the 700-bed Ng Teng Fong Hospital and a new building with 250 beds at Changi General Hospital next year. Two more community hospitals and several nursing homes will be opening within the next few years, too.

Several hospitals said they see themselves competing with each other for numbers of foreigners — as they have been doing in the past few years, the Straits Times said.—Xinhua

Five missing miners in C Philippines have “slim” chance to survive

Manila, 15 Feb — Philippine President Benigno Aquino III on Thursday ordered the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) to determine the cause of Wednesday’s mining accident in the Philippines, which has caused at least four dead and six missing.

The west wall of the open mine pit operated by Semirara Mining Corporation collapsed around 11:55 pm local time on Wednesday after a landslide hit An tique. Latest report showed that out of the thirteen people trapped in the mine, four people were confirmed dead, three were rescued and six remain missing.

President Speaker Edwin Lacierda said on Thursday the president also instructed the NDRRMC to update him on the results of the investigations. Aquino also instructed the Department of Social Welfare and Development to extend immediate assistance to the victims and their families.

The three workers rescued are Marjun Catoto, Adrian Celmur and Leonardo Sojour, according to Rosario Cabrera, director for Western Visayas at the Office of Civil Defence. She added the bodies of four workers Leo-vigildo Porcas, Abner Lim, Efren Esquiza — have been already retrieved.—Xinhua

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) and visiting French President Francois Hollande attend a joint press conference at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, on 14 Feb, 2013. Hollande is on a two-day visit to India.—Xinhua

Tourists visit a scenic spot during the Spring Festival holidays in Macao, south China, on 14 Feb, 2013. According to the statistics, the total number of people entering and exiting all ports of Macao reached 257,000 on Thursday.—Xinhua

Anas’ chairmanship authority was stripped off by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Friday last week after investigation into several corruption cases conducted by the country’s anti-graft agency of Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) pointed to involvement of Anas.

As the ruling party’s patron Benigno Aquino III on Thursday ordered the National Disas-
CLAMSE DAY NOTICE
MV BRUSSELS VOY NO (99)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BRUSSELS VOY NO (99) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.J.T.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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: NYK LINE

Phone: 25692/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATIMAESTIC 90913 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATIMAESTIC 90913 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI SHIP PVT LTD

Phone: 256919/256916

Canada extends airlift support for French mission in Mali

OTTAWA, 15 Feb—Canada announced Thursday that it will extend its support for France’s mission in Mali by contributing a strategic airlift aircraft for an additional month.

The Canadian task force in Mali consists of one CC-177 Globemaster III strategic airlift aircraft and approximately 40 Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, including flight and maintenance crews and air traffic movement technicians.

Canada will continue to provide support until 15 March at the request of the French government, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said in a statement.

“The work of our well-equipped Canadian men and women in uniform, in support of our government’s intent, is helping to stabilize the security situation in Mali and beyond,” he added.

This is the second extension in support of the French military mission in Mali since 15 January when the task started.

Canada originally made the airlift available to France for one week, but then extended its commitment by another three weeks to 15 February.

Since 17 January, a total of 27 flights of more than 194,000 km were conducted, airlifting more than 765,000 kg of military equipment and personnel in support of Operation Serif.

Canada’s Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Tom Lawson, has said that the strategic heavy lift capacity provided to France illustrates the Canadian Armed Forces’ tangible support to a key ally in their mission to contain terrorist organizations in northern Mali.

Canadian media reports say that Canada’s special forces, which are not related to the task force, are also on the ground protecting Canadian assets such as the Canadian embassy in the capital of Bamako. —Xinhua

Washington, 15 Feb—The 9-year-old tigress fathered by a 6-year-old tiger named Larry, who was temporarily transferred from the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans for breeding.

Leanne was one of a handful of tigers worldwide to receive prenatal sono grams and exams while awake. Captive tigers are generally put under during the pregnancy exams, which can be dangerous to the animals.

“It’s so much better for these animals not to be sedated. Many animals have adverse reactions to the anesthesia, which can be worse than the actual procedure,” MacDonald said. In the wild, Sumatran tigers — the smallest of six tiger subspecies — are found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra in lowland and mountain forests. Habitat destruction and poaching are the main threats to these tigers’ endangerment. —Reuters

Xinhua

New oil and gas field found in Libya

TRIPOLI, 15 Feb—A new oil and gas field has been discovered in western Libya, the authorities said on Thursday.

Algerian oil company Sonatrach Consortium found the field in Ghadames Basin, about 650 km southwest of Tripoli, Oil and Gas Minister Abdulbari al-Arussi said in a statement on Thursday.

Preliminary exploration showed that the new field has a capacity of 8,200 barrels of crude oil and 1,700 cubic meters of gas per day, al-Arussi said.

Sonatrach resumed exploratory operations in Libya in June 2012, following a suspension for more than a year due to security concerns caused by the February 2011 uprising. Libya, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has Africa’s largest oil reserves and produced more than 1.6 million barrels per day before the conflict.

Its oil production came to a virtual standstill by the summer of 2011 and bounced back to about 1.34 million barrels per day in January 2013, according to official data.

With the oil sector the mainstay of the economy, Libya aims to increase its oil production to 1.8 million barrels per day in 2013, even though security in the North African country remains precarious. —Xinhua

Eight-week-old white tiger (Panthera tigris) cubs are seen after a medical examination by veterinary surgeons at Bratislava Zoo on 8 Feb, 2013. Three white tigers, a male named Adzuj and two females Adisa and Atisir were presented to the media for the first time on Friday. —Reuters

7.3-magnitude quake jolts Russia:

CENC

BEIJING, 15 Feb—A 7.3-magnitude quake jolt ed Russia at 9:13 pm on Thursday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicentre, with a depth of 10 km, was monitored at 67.6 degrees north latitude and 142.6 degrees east longitude, the centre said.

Xinhua

A Boeing 787 passenger jet lands in Everett, Washington from Fort Worth, Texas, in this 7 Feb, 2013 file photo.—Reuters

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**Entertainment**

### Lady Gaga needs hip surgery, cancels remainder of tour

**Los Angeles, 15 Feb** — Lady Gaga cancelled the remainder of her “Born This Way Ball” concert tour to undergo hip surgery, promoters Live Nation said on Wednesday. The 26-year-old singer announced she was suffering from an inflammation of the joints on Tuesday, but the tour operator said Gaga’s injuries were more serious than she realized.

“After additional tests this morning to review the severity of the issue, it has been determined that Lady Gaga has a labral tear of the right hip,” Live Nation said in a statement. “She will need surgery to repair the problem, followed by strict downtime to recover.

This, unfortunately, will force her to cancel the tour so she can heal,” it added. Gaga has been on the road for two years, traveling across six continents.

### SRK, Kajol voted most romantic Bollywood couple

**London, 15 Feb** — Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, his leading lady in films like ‘Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge’ and ‘Kuch Kuch Hota Hai’, have been voted the most romantic Bollywood screen couple of all time.

In a poll conducted by Sanona, the UK’s largest online Pay-Per-View Indian movie portal, the stars beat off competition from on-screen couples from different decades: Dharmendra and Hema Malini, Raj Kapoor and Nargis, Amitabh Bachchan and Rekha.

**PTI**

### Salman to launch bodyguard Shera’s son in B’wood

**Mumbai, 15 Feb** — Superstar Salman Khan, who has given a break to many newcomers in Bollywood, now intends to launch his bodyguard Shera’s son in the film world.

Salman had launched Shera in films with a song-and-dance sequence in the title track of his film ‘Bodyguard’. Shera appeared in the song alongside the 47-year-old actor and Katrina Kaif.

Now gossip mills are abuzz that Salman is likely to launch Shera’s son in Bollywood. Recently Salman was seen praising Shera’s 20-year-old son Tiger.

**PTI**

### River Phoenix rises again as final movie finished

**Berlin, 15 Feb** — American actor River Phoenix has returned to the big screen 20 years on from his death after “Dark Blood” director George Sluizer salvaged the footage of his incomplete 1993 film and filled in the gaps with voiceovers. Phoenix was considered one of the most promising performers of his generation before he died suddenly of a suspected drug overdose aged 23, 10 days before shooting on “Dark Blood” was scheduled to finish.

British actor Jonathan Pryce, who starred alongside Phoenix and Judy Davis in the story of a couple who get lost in the American desert, said he had no reason to suspect the young star was taking drugs during six weeks of filming together.

“I found him a remarkable young man,” Pryce told reporters after a press screening in Berlin. “I can’t believe now looking back that he was only 23 at the time, a kind of old head on young shoulders. He was absolutely delightful and wonderful to work with. “In all the weeks we were together in Utah ... at no time did I experience him using drugs or abusing drugs in any way, shape or form. I’m not a drug user myself but I’d have known. It was a time in his life when he was very committed to not using drugs.” — Reuters
Nadal into Brazil Open quarterfinals

SAO PAULO, 15 Feb — Rafael Nadal progressed to the quarterfinals of the Brazil Open on Thursday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Brazilian Joao Souza. The result follows the Spaniard’s withdrawal from the doubles’ event on Wednesday amid concerns a heavy workload could compromise his recovery from a second-month layoff with a knee injury.

The former world No 1 faces Argentine Carlos Berlocq, who defeated eighth-seeded Albert Ramos of Spain. The Brazil Open is Nadal's second tournament since suffering a left knee injury during his second-round Wimbledon defeat to Czech Lukas Rosol in June last year.—Xinhua

Garcia finds late birdies in thickening Riviera fog

Pacific Palisades, 15 Feb — Sergio Garcia could hardly see the flagstick on his last three holes, yet the Spaniard finished with two birdies to end the Northern Trust Open first round a stroke off the lead on Thursday. As thick fog rolled across the iconic Riviera Country Club layout, the world number 14 completed a six-under-par 66 with only American Matt Kuchar ahead of him in a high-quality field.

Making his first appearance on the PGA Tour this year, Garcia coolly sank a six-foot birdie putt on his final hole, the par-four ninth, after hitting an exquisite eight-iron approach. “Obviously I’m very happy with it,” the 33-year-old Spaniard told reporters after mixing seven birdies with a lone bogey on a challenging Riviera layout he has always enjoyed playing. “My first tournament in the United States this year, it was nice to start like that with three birdies. Then I managed to play quite good, not extremely well. I hit my drivers pretty good. “Overall I managed to hit some nice chips and hit some nice putts here and there, so I’m very pleased with the round over.”

Asked when his group had been first affected by the late afternoon fog, Garcia replied: “We were on the seventh tee. And then that marine layer or fog or whatever you want to call it, it came in very quickly. I was wondering if we would be able to keep going.”—Reuters

Fedderer and Del Potro on track for repeat Rotterdam final

Rotterdam, 15 Feb — Roger Federer failed to match the accuracy of Cu- pid’s arrow on Valentine’s Day but still cruised past Dutchman Thiemo de Bakker 6-3, 6-4 in the second round of the World Indoor Tournament on Thursday. Defending champion Federer only landed 42 percent of his first serves during the first set but an early break helped him take the lead against an awkward opponent cheered on by a home crowd.

“He had a clear game plan with a lot of variation so I never really got into a rally,” Federer told reporters. “He was also unpredictable for me.” Another early break in the second set combined with an improved service ratio earned top seed Federer a place in the quarter-finals where he faces Frenchman Julien Benneteau, who beat twice on the grass courts of Wimbledon last year. Federer won at the London Olympics in straight sets but had to overcome a two-set deficit weeks earlier on his way to his 17th grand slam title. “It will be tough as he (Benneteau) serves and returns, while he played convincing matches in the first two rounds,” the Swiss added. Second seed Juan Martin Del Potro, beaten by Federer in last year’s final, kept his best tennis for the big points as he struggled before beating wildcard Ernests Gulbis 7-6, 6-1. “The first set was tough and quite a battle and I had some luck on the final point in the tie-break,” the Argentine told reporters. Latvian Gulbis impressed with his serve in the second set when he hit five straight aces, but a break in the eight game was enough for Del Potro to clinch the match.—Reuters

.Players and coaches agree all to play for after Real Madrid and Man Utd draw

MADRID, 15 Feb — Manchester United coach, Sir Alex Ferguson admitted he was satisfied with the 1-1 draw his side achieved away to Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 clash. A Cristiano Ronaldo header cancelled out Danny Welbeck’s opener for Manchester United, but the result gives the English side a vital away goal to take home to Old Trafford in three weeks. “I am satisfied with the score because it is difficult to come to the Bernabeu,” said Sir Alex on Spanish TV after the game.

“If the first half I thought we defended too deep and gave Madrid chances around our box and the goalkeeper made two great chances. We played better in the second half and had chances to have got a better result,” he said, looking ahead to the second leg. “I think it is very open, we have now got a chance and that is what we were hoping for, but we know that Madrid are one of the best sides in Europe and the best on the break,” he said, before praising Ronaldo, who joined Madrid from Manchester United three and a half years ago and for whom he clearly retains affection.

“Ronaldo’s was a great goal, of course we miss him, he’s a fantastic player and a fantastic person and I am very pleased the way he has flourished at Real Madrid.” Meanwhile Ronaldo do returned the respect by not celebrating the goal he scored against his former club. “I respect everyone at Manchester United a lot, I grew up as a player at the club,” he explained.

Sumo legend Taiho to receive national award

Tokyo, 15 Feb — The government will award a posthumous national honour to the late yokozuna Taiho in recognition of his historic sumo victory record, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Friday. Taiho, who died last month of heart disease at 72, “left glorious achievements as a great yokozuna,” the top government spokesman told reporters in explaining the conferring of the People’s Honour Award. He was a national hero loved by lots of people, giving society hopes, dreams and courage. It will be the 21st time for the honour to be award

Zenit Beat Liverpool 2-0 in Europa League Clash

ST PETERSBURG, 15 Feb — Defending Russian Premier League champions FC Zenit St Petersburg have produced one of their strongest performances so far this season to top ple down England’s Liverpool 2-0 in the first leg of their round of 32 UEFA Europa League tie.

After a goalless first half, two goals in three minutes from Brazilian striker Hulk and substitute

Sergei Semak sealed the result for Zenit, and ensured that Liverpool will have an uphill battle to make through to the next round. The return leg is set for Liverpool’s hallowed Anfield on 21 February. An early away goal for the Russian club will leave Liverpool needing to strike four times to progress to the last 16.—Xinhua

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More than half of Confederations Cup tickets sold

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Feb — More than half of the total tickets available for this year’s FIFA Confederations Cup in Brazil have been sold, according to world football’s governing body FIFA. The second phase of sales for the 13-30 June event began on Thursday, with 399,525 tickets already purchased from fans in 138 countries and regions.

The figure, which includes 209,692 seats allocated via lottery, accounts for 52 percent of the event’s total tickets available for the FIFA World Cup a year ago. "There were a few close games, but I felt like I was really taking advantage of every opportunity I had and not letting her play her game," added the top seed who notched the sixth 6-0, 6-0 victory of her career.

Fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska beat former world number one Ana Ivanovic 6-1, 7-6 and will next face Caroline Wozniacki, another former world number one, in the semi-finals. "I was just trying to get it in and hoping for the best. It was a struggle, but I got through it," added the Dane.

Police escort back major kidnapping suspect in Venezuela

BEIJING, 15 Feb — Chinese police have escorted a major kidnapping suspect in Venezuela back to China for further investigation, according to a Public Security Ministry statement on Thursday. The suspect, named Xi, was escorted to the Beijing Capital International Airport at about 6:10 am on Thursday, according to the statement issued by the Ministry.

The ministry said the suspect fled the country on October 17 after he failed to make profits in his own business, according to the Beijing News.

In 2013, the Beijing Court sentenced Xi, 26, a native of Guangdong, to six years in prison for kidnapping and rape. He joined a kidnapping gang after he failed to make profits in his own business, according to the Beijing News.

Police in south China’s Guangdong Province also caught two suspects of Xi’s complices, the statement said.

More than half of Confederations Cup tickets sold

LONDON, 15 Feb — World number one Victoria Azarenka and second-ranked Serena Williams eased into the Qatar Open quarter-finals with dominant third-round victories on Thursday. American Williams, the 15-times grand slam champion who could return to the top of the rankings if she wins the tournament, crushed Polish Urszula Radwanska 6-0, 6-3.

Belarusian Azarenka, who won last month’s Australian Open, demolished American Christina McHale 6-0, 6-0 in just over an hour and Russian third seed Maria Sharapova overpowered Czech Klara Zakopalova 6-3, 6-3. "I felt like I came out very focussed, with a good mindset and a good game plan."

Police escort back major kidnapping suspect in Venezuela

The Public Security Ministry sent a work team for initial investigation of the gang in April 2011 after receiving request from the Chinese Embassy in Venezuela, it said.

The ministry sent a work team to the country again on January 7th and caught Xi on February 1st with the help of the Venezuelan police and army, it said.

Police in south China’s Guangdong Province also caught two suspects of Xi’s complices, the statement said.

Holloway and Alford-Sullivan to coach US world teams

SULLIVAN have been selected to guide the United States team in August’s IAAF world championships, USA Track and Field said on Thursday.

University of Florida coach Holloway will lead the US men and Alford-Sullivan, the Penn State University coach, will direct the American women in the 10-18 August championships in Moscow.

Sprint and hurdles coach for the US men’s London Olympics team, Holloway has mentored previous world champions Kerron Clement and John Capel and 2012 Olympic relay silver medalists Tony McQuay and Jeff Demps. His Florida teams swept the US collegiate indoor and outdoor championships in 2012. An assistant coach for the US 2004 Olympic team, Alford-Sullivan’s athletes include 2012 Olympians Shana Cox and Bridget Franek.— Reuters

Azarenka, Williams stroll through in Qatar

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus serves the ball to Chris- tina Mchale of US during their women’s match at the Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha on 14 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

Azarenka said on the WTA website (www.wtatain- n.com).” There were a few close games, but I felt like I was really taking advantage of every opportunity I had and not letting her play her game."

Fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska beat former world number one Ana Ivanovic 6-1, 7-6 and will next face Caroline Wozniacki, another former world number one, who defeated German Mona Barthel 7-6, 6-3. “It wasn’t great tennis out there today — the wind was huge a factor,” Wozniacki said. “To be honest it was just about getting the ball in play today. "I was just trying to get it in and hoping for the best. It was a struggle, but I got through it, " added the Dane. Australian Sam Stosur reached the last eight with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova and sixth seed Sara Errani knocked out Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova 7-5, 5-7, 6-2. Czech Petra Kvi- tova completed the quarter- final lineup after recovering from a slow start to over- come Russian Nadia Petrova 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.— Reuters

Thousands to participate in Jammu Marathon

JAMMU, 15 Feb — More than 10,000 participants, including Bollywood celebrities, are expected to run in the fourth edition of Jammu Marathon, scheduled to be held here on Sunday.

“We are expecting 10 to 20,000 participants in the fourth edition of Jammu Marathon,” the organizers of the event said.— PTI
**The New Light of Myanmar**

**“We are doing” does not make sense: MP**

Myanmar-US to cooperate in cultural heritage conservation

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb — Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and a US cultural delegation yesterday discussed matters on providing technology assistance to Myanmar in conservation of cultural heritage in Myanmar.

The meeting focused on providing technology assistance to conserve the palace in Mandalay and cultural heritages, and cooperation in cultural sector in the future.

The delegation was led by Assistance Secretary Ms Judith Stock of the Education and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Department of State of the United States of America and accompanied by Mr Derek J Mitchell, Ambassador of the US to Myanmar. — MNA

Photo shows selected twenty beauty pageants for Miss Myanmar International 2013 jointly organized by Myanmar Tourism Federation and Myanmar Tourism Services Co., Ltd. photo shows selected twenty beauty pageants for Miss Myanmar International 2013 jointly organized by Myanmar Tourism Federation and Myanmar Tourism Services Co., Ltd.

Jointly organized by Myanmar Tourism Federation and Myanmar Tourism Services Co., Ltd. Miss Myanmar International 2013 will be held at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindamma Street in Mayangon Township in Yangon on 13 February.

“Twenty selected beauty pageants will be given intensive training meeting international standards to be able to showcase their beauty and abilities, skills in General Knowledge, sense of community, goodwill and sympathetic behaviour at the upcoming international contest. Preparations are being made to nurture them to be potential contestants who can bring a glow of pride for the country”, Ma Tin Moe Lwin of Talents & Models Agency said.

“Contestants are to compete in the beauty pageant contest in national costumes, international costumes, sports costumes and favourite dresses for their imaginations. They will be judged in accord with international scoring system”, U Lin Htun of Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Photo shows selected twenty beauty pageants for Miss Myanmar International 2013 jointly organized by Myanmar Tourism Federation and Myanmar Tourism Services Co., Ltd.

**MRTV invites companies to broadcast live 27th SEA Games**

Local and foreign companies have been invited to carry out broadcasting services such as live broadcast of the opening and concluding ceremonies of the 27th SEA Games, working for IBC (International Broadcasting Centre) and broadcast of seven sports events.

Those interested companies at home and abroad may submit their proposals to the director-general of Myanmar Radio and Television (Tatkion) not later than 28th February, 2013, and the day on which the officials of companies would meet will be announced.

**Byline: Nanda Win**

**Byline: Arkar Hein; Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)**

**From Miss Myanmar International 2013 to international beauty contests**

For the public views on functions of the parliament and football game, “It is like a football game. We, MPs are the players on the pitch and a comparison between the

**New ferries to be ordered from Japan for Yangon-Dalla route**

Photo shows a ferry running Yangon-Dalla route. Two out of four ferries are routinely running Yangon-Dalla routes daily. For convenience of commuters, four new ferries with adjustments to Yangon River will be ordered from Japan.

The upgrading of Yangon-Dalla ferries has become the latest attempt by Yangon authorities as they are committed to developing transportation networks in Yangon, the commercial hub of Myanmar. An official of the Inland Water Transport confirmed the move.

The Ministry of Transport and JICA are in talks and the move is expected to be aided by JICA. Jetties will be upgraded in the first step.

The authorities afforded the upgrading as the commuters rely more heavily on the ferries which take only a few minutes to cross the river.

**Byline: Nanda Win**

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Myanma Alinn: 15-2-2013

**Translation: HKA**