President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to King of Brunei

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2013, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Indian Ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Feb—Indian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr. V.S Seshadri who has completed his tour of duty paid a call on Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham at the Presidential Palace, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and officials concerned.

During the meeting, the Indian Ambassador expressed words of thanks for the help of the Union government, the people and officials of the ministries during his tour of duty.—MNA

Industrialists voice their concerns about sustainability of industrial zones

A shortage of electricity happens to Myanmar in summer not because of growing electricity consumption as a result of a change in lifestyle of Myanmar civil society but because of continuing reliance on the system of generating electricity from hydropower plants as a developing country.

Although it is likely to be a nationwide electricity demand in March, April and May 2013, needing nearly 2060 megawatts, the Ministry of Electric Power is taking necessary measures not to be a reoccurrence of a dearth of electricity occurred in last summer. According to recent reports, more electricity are being delivered to the public while factories and plants of industrial zones which are divided into two groups have to enjoy electricity supply on alternative five hours like a method used in last summer.

I have a chance to make a roundtable discussion with responsible persons of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone management committee on productivity of the industrial zone based on limited amount of electricity supply and challenges they have to withstand for sustainability of industrial zones.

U Myat Thin Aung (Chairman of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Management committee)

Starting from 1 January, industrial zones are currently not allowed the use of electricity from 4 to 11 pm. The factory which violates the rule will be earmarked for closure. Although electricity supply is in progress in the remaining hours, it is not on a regular basis.

It was very convenient to have 24-hour electricity in rainy season. There was a pay increase could be made to a certain extent for workers who were demanding. Working time after 5 pm was extended to 8 or 9 pm. Workers were happy when they did about for four hours’ overtime a day and got overtime pay.

Their demand on pay rise meets a success.

Overtime is impossible in energy consumption for production compared with the world nations’. The advantage of the use of electricity is cost efficiency, thereby contributing towards low price in the market.

It will be okay not only for us but also for workers to work overtime if we have electricity from 7 am to 10 pm when the time comes to supply electricity as it is expected.

The next thing I would like to say is about the experience of South Korea where there are five different rates for one unit of electricity. We have two kinds of electricity bill. One is for the public and another is for the businessmen. It is complete opposite there. Industrial zones are allowed to enjoy low price. There are different rates for energy consumption for production compared with the world nations’.

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Byline: Khin Maung Htwe
Photos: Tin Tun Aung (MNA)
Cash assistance for peace group members and their families in Hpa-an

Pyinmanna gets new tarred streets

Myanmar Judo athletes in intensive training for XXVII SEA Games

Stimulant tablets seized in Mawlamyine

Head-on collision claims two lives on motorbike in Heho

Cartoon show to mark 111th birthday of cartoonist U Ba Gyan in Nyaungdon

The deputy minister called on them to make more efforts in training sessions, keeping high spirit, to be able to achieve success in the upcoming event. Plans are underway to send a five-member Myanmar Judo athletes—Ko Kyaw Paung, Hein Latt Zaw, Thara Zaw, kind, he added. She assured that cooperation in harmony could be made by ministries concerned. Kayin State government, UN agencies and INGOs and NGOs.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited Mon State Social Welfare Department, nursery schools, vocational training school and youth centre in Mawlamyine. On 17 February, the Union minister attended the ceremony to present cash assistance to social organizations at Taungwaung Home for the Aged in Mawlamyine and oversaw relief aid warehouse of Mon State Relief and Resettlement Department. On 18 February, the Union minister addressed the annual meeting of Day Care Centre held at Myanmar Medical Association (Central) on Theinbyu street in Yangon.

Overturned light truck hurts driver near 8th-Mile Junction in Yangon

YANGON, 22 Feb — The ceremony to open new tarred streets was held at Shwechi 4th street, U Bwar street and Yonegyi street in Pyinmanna on 18 February.

First, an official gave an address on newly-built tarred streets and a local spoke words of thanks.

Next, Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Myint Maung Than, Pyinmanna Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hla Myint Oo and member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Myo Aung formally opened the new tarred streets. Then they strolled along the streets.

Upgrading of streets were carried out, spending K 65 million for 3650 feet long Shwechi 4th street, K 16.3 million for the 1600 feet long U Bwar street and K 31.1 million for 1800 feet long Yonegyi street. Thanks to the newly-upgraded tarred streets, local people will be able to use the new streets the whole year round. —Kyemon

Bamboo truck accident claims three lives in Pyu Township

PYU, 22 Feb — A vehicle carrying bamboo plunged down the embankment and overturned near Taungkalat pagoda in field No (11) of Kwan Protected Forest in Nyaungbintha region of Pyu Township in Bago Region at about 10 pm on 11 February, causing three dead and three wounded.

The six-wheeled truck driven by U Me Lay plunged down the embankment while driving along a downward path of Bago mountain ranges to Pyu. Ko Min, 31, and Ko Chit, 56, Ko Chit, 42, were killed in the fatal car accident. The other three suffered injuries and they were transported to Pyu Township Hospital.

Stimulant tablets seized in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 22 Feb — Stimulant tablets were seized in Mawlamyine on 15 February.

Police Inspector Maung Maung Kyaw of Mon State Police Commander Office and party seized 170 WY stimulant tablets, a handset and K22,000 while conducting a search of Mya Thura Naung (a) Naung Naung, 31, on a pavement near Strand Hotel in Mayangon ward in Mawlamyine.

Head-on collision claims two lives on motorbike in Heho

HEHO, 22 Feb — A head-on collision between a bus and a motorbike occurred in Heho of Shan State (South). The crash claimed lives of two men on the motorbike.

The motorbike driven by U Mya Hmwe together with his companion collided head-on with a Taunggyi-
French, Malian forces fight rebels in Gao

GAO, (Mali) 22 Feb — French and Malian troops fought Islamists on the streets of Gao and a car bomb exploded in Kidal on Thursday, as fighting showed little sign of abating weeks before France plans to start withdrawing some forces.

Reuters reporters in Gao in the country’s desert north said French and Malian forces fired at the mayor’s office with heavy machineguns after Islamists were reported to have infiltrated the Niger River town during a night of explosions and gunfire.

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told a news conference in Brussels that Gao was back under control after clashes earlier in the day.

“Malian troops supported by French soldiers killed five jihadi rebels and the situation is back to normal,” he said.

French troops dispatched to root out rebels with links to al Qaeda swiftly retook northern towns last month. But they now risk being bogged down in a guerrilla conflict as they try to help Mali’s weak army counter bombings and raids.

“There was an infiltration by Islamists overnight and there is shooting all over the place,” Sadou Harouna Diallo, Gao’s mayor, told Reuters by telephone earlier in the day, saying he was not in his office at the time.

French troops in armoured vehicles later joined the battle as it spilled out into the warren of sandy streets, where, two weeks ago, they also fought for hours against Islamists who had infiltrated the town via the nearby river.

Helicopters clattered over the mayor’s office, where a nearby local government office and petrol station was on fire.

A Gao resident said he heard an explosion and then saw a Malian military vehicle on fire in a nearby street.

Another Republican senator backs Hagel for Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb —Chuck Hagel’s path to confirmation as President Barack Obama’s new secretary of defence became more secure on Thursday when Republican Senator Richard Shelby said he would support the nomination.

Shelby joined several other Republican senators a week ago in delaying a vote on confirming Hagel in order to allow colleagues more time to examine Hagel’s record, said spokesman Jonathan Graffeo.

The White House said it still supported Hagel and expected he would be confirmed. The Senate is expected to vote next week.

Shelby’s support for Hagel was first reported by the Decatur Daily newspaper. “He’s probably as good as we’re going to get,” he told the Alabama paper.

Democrats control 55 votes in the 100-member Senate and Hagel now has 49 confirmed against him.

The post of defence secretary is one of the most important to the United States, as Hagel would succeed Leon Panetta as soon as possible. Hagel would want to “patch things up and make things right as possible,” his backers feel.

Hagel was first reported to have been opposed to Hagel’s nomination as civilian chief at the Pentagon since it was announced on 7 January.

“Eagles have a strong flight,” the White House blasted what it called continued political posturing by Republicans.

“We firmly believe that Senator Hagel will be confirmed, but the waste of time is of consequence,” White House spokesman Jay Carney said at his daily news briefing.

“There are 66,000 men and women in uniform in Afghanistan and we need our new secretary of defence on the job to be part of the significant decisions that have to be made as we bring that war to a responsible end,” he said.

Many of the 15 senators who signed the letter have been among Hagel’s most vocal opponents. They included half of the 12 Republicans on the Senate armed services panel — James Inhofe, the top Republican on the committee, as well as Lindsey Graham, Roger Wicker, David Vitter, Ted Cruz and Mike Lee.

President Francois Hollande wins Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize

PARIS, 22 Feb — French President Francois Hollande has been awarded the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize “for his valuable contribution to peace and stability in Africa,” the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said on Thursday.

“Having assessed the dangers and the repercussions of the UN chief, Greek FM meet on renewed talks on major issues

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday met with Dimitris Avramopoulos, the foreign minister of Greece, and the two discussed the prospects for renewed negotiations to “find a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus” and other long-standing issues concerned with Greece.

During the meeting, Ban and the visiting foreign minister “exchanged views on the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and also focused on prospects for renewed negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus and to resolve the Greece- former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia name dispute,” UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here.

“The Secretary-General underlined the importance of accelerating progress in both processes and reiterated his personal commitment to that end,” Nesirky said.

The United Nations has been making great efforts to accelerate the negotiations to seek proper settlements of the long-standing disputes on Cyprus and Macedonia’s name, respectively. On the issue of Cyprus, talks between the two parties the Turkish and Greek Cypriots — began in 2008, under the UN auspices, with the goal of creating a bizonal, bi-communal federation, with political equality and a single international personality that will accommodate both communities.

The island state has been divided by a military buffer zone since 1974, when Turkish forces invaded and occupied the north after a Greek-led coup attempted to make the land part of Greece.—Xinhua

French PM advocates for close partnership with Germany’s Bavaria

MUNICH, 22 Feb — Czech Prime Minister Petr Necas advocated here on Thursday for a close partnership between Czech Republic and south German State Bavaria, expressing regret at wrongs caused by the post-war transfer of Sudeten Germans at the same time.

The common past obliged both sides to work for a common future, Necas said in his speech in the Bavarian parliament.

In addition, Necas mentioned the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans after the Second World War. He regretted that innocent people suffered a lot of sorrow and injustice.

On the decrees issued by the then President Eduard Beneš, about 2.5 million Germans were transferred from the then Czechoslovakia, mainly the border regions Sudetenland, after the Second World War and their properties were confiscated.

French President Francois Hollande of the peace diploma and gold medal Prize “will be determined shortly, with the laureate,” the statement said.

Xinhua

Egyptian parliamentary elections to begin on 28 April

CAIRO, 22 Feb — Egyptian parliamentary elections will begin on April and be held on four stages, Ahram online reported on Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the Shura Council (upper house of the parliament), which temporarily holds legislative power, endorsed an amendment referred by the constitutional court over the parliamentary election law.

The amendment came after the constitutional court on Monday had rejected the parliamentary election law, deeming some of its articles as “unconstitutional.”

Egypt’s lower house of parliament was dissolved last year due to unconstitutionality of its vote. The Shura Council will hold full legislative authority until the lower house of the parliament is elected.

Xinhua
Mini planet found far beyond Earth’s solar system

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, 22 Feb — Astronomers have found a mini planet beyond our solar system that is the smallest of more than 800 extra-solar planets discovered, scientists said on Wednesday.

The planet, known as Kepler-37b, is one of three circling a yellow star similar to the sun that is located in the constellation Lyra, about 210 light years away. One light year is about 9.46 trillion miles (10 trillion km). “We see very large planets and they’re uncommon. Earth-sized planets seem to be pretty common, so our guess is that small planets must be even more common,” said Thomas Barclay, with NASA’s Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California. The smaller the planet, the more difficult it is to find. Kepler-37b, as well as two other planets, were discovered with the NASA’s Kepler space telescope.

The sample, retrieved from a piece of bedrock, which appears to be about 2 inches beneath the surface of the rock, was analyzed. Planets located in “habitable zones” around their host stars, where water can exist on their surfaces, are of particular interest. Water is believed to be necessary for life.

Astronomers have found a mini planet beyond our solar system, which scientists said on Wednesday, was a complete success,” We're all very happy to be part of this,” said Thomas Barclay, with NASA’s Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California. The smaller the planet, the more difficult it is to find. Kepler-37b, as well as two other planets, were discovered with the NASA’s Kepler space telescope.

NASA’s art’s illustration compares the planets in the Kepler-37 system to the moon and planets in the solar system. — Reuters

The first sample of powdered rock from Mars collected by the NASA’s Curiosity rover is pictured in this 20 Feb, 2013, handout photo. — Reuters

IBM launches enhanced mobile services offering

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — International Business Machines unveiled its expanded mobile strategy on Thursday in an effort to gain an advantage over rivals amid a proliferation of devices such as smartphones and tablets. The technology services company will offer customers a portfolio of products for security, device management as well as analytics and application development. The company said. What IBM calls MobileFirst, “businesses can now streamline everything from the management of employee’s mobile devices, to the creation of a new mobile commerce app,” the company said. Lopez Research analyst Maribel Lopez said any company who wanted to succeed in the future needed to be strong in mobile. “This is critical for IBM because the future of computing is based on a couple of technologies: cloud, mobile and big data,” she said. “If IBM can actually educate the market that it has a pretty comprehensive (mobile) suite, that positions them really well.” Lopez added.

Google posts preview of Google Glass wearable headset

BEIJING, 22 Feb — Google has posted a video preview of its forthcoming Google Glass wearable headset, providing a fresh and more realistic look at the device’s user interface. Since announcing its wearable computing project last year, Google has slowly worked up excitement for the device. Wednesday’s video showed off a whole host of features including the ability to search the web through voice. Other features displayed in the video include the previously announced ability to send hands-free messages, including video chat.

One segment showed a person running to catch a plane, the flight information displayed in the upper-right hand of the screen. There’s no solid release date or price set for Google Glass as of yet. Google recently started selling development versions for 1,500 dollars and the company is still hoping for a public launch in early 2014, reported Imagine Games Network. — Xinhua

Tech luminaries announce £33mln USD life science awards

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 Feb — Silicon Valley technology luminaries on Wednesday announced the launch of the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, a non-profit organization scientist 3 million US dollar each for their groundbreaking work. “I think our society needs more heroes, more scientists, more researchers, more engineers,” said Zuckerberg at the event. He noted that while the prize would recognize research with groundbreaking achievements, it also intends to inspire future scientists.

Founding sponsors include Russian venture capitalist Yuri Milner, Google co-founder Sergey Brin and wife Anne Wojcicki, and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and wife Priscilla Chan. Besides the 33 million dollars for inaugural winners, they have agreed to put another 15 million dollars every year for five prizes going forward. “I think our society needs more heroes, more scientists, more researchers, more engineers,” said Zuckerberg at the event. He noted that while the prize would recognize research with groundbreaking achievements, it also intends to inspire future scientists. — Xinhua

CAPE CANAVERAL, 22 Feb — NASA’s Mars rover Curiosity, dispatched to learn if the planet ever had ingredients for life, drilled its first bit of powder from inside a potentially water-formed ancient rock, scientists said on Wednesday. The robotic geology station, which landed inside a giant impact basin on 6 August for a two-year mission, was invented to analyze rock powder from its drill into a scoop, pictures relayed by the rover on Wednesday showed. ““We’re all very happy to get this confirmation and relieved that the drilling was a complete success,”” said Curiosity engineer Scott McCloskey of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, told reporters on a conference call.

On 8 February, the rover used its powerful drill, the first instrument of its type to be sent to Mars, to bore into a flat, veneered piece of bedrock, which appears to contain minerals formed by flowing water. The sample, retrieved from at least 2 inches beneath the surface of the rock, will be sieved and portions of it processed inside two onboard science instruments. The gray powder is strikingly different than the ubiquitous red dust that covers the planet’s surface, a result of oxidation of solar ultraviolet radiation. “Having a rock-drilling capability on a rover is a significant advancement,” said Louise Jandura, chief engineer for Curiosity’s sample system. — Reuters

A worker is pictured behind a logo at the IBM stand on the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on 26 Feb, 2011. — Reuters

NASA Mars rover ready to eat, analyze rock powder

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, 22 Feb — Astronomers have found a mini planet beyond our solar system that is the smallest of more than 800 extra-solar planets discovered, scientists said on Wednesday.

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Volvo Car to cut 1,000 jobs for saving plan

STOCKHOLM, 22 Feb — Volvo Car Company announced on Wednesday to lay off 1,000 employees including consultants by the end of this year to help implement its saving plan of 1.5 billion Swedish kronor (about 238 million US dollars).

“We have to adapt the company to the reality. We have done it with our workshops and now we have to do it with our offices,” Hakan Samuelsson, CEO of Volvo Car, was quoted as saying at an interview by the Swedish Television SVT. Samuelsson would not make any comments on the actual effects of the job reduction on the company but he said those strategically important models would not be affected.

“We don’t see it as dramatic and rather we are just trying to balance our resources and make most of what we have,” said those strategically important models would not be affected.

Magnus Sundermo, Swedish engineer was quoted as saying by the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter. He added that it was good for the company to ensure the present workforce for the company as there had been too many consultants compared to permanent employees in the company.

In the summer of 2012 Volvo Car let go about 800 employees working in the factories and in November last year the company was working on a comprehensive cost saving package plan, in which further job reduction was included as development of new models slowed down. At the beginning of 2013, Volvo Car’s sales plummeted by 16.8 percent in the European market in January, nearly two times as Europe’s average.

Bullied children can suffer lasting psychological harm as adults

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — Bullied children grow into adults who are at increased risk of developing anxiety disorders, depression and suicidal thoughts, according to a study led by researchers at Duke University. Using the Great Smoky Mountain Study, the research team tapped a population-based sample of 1,420 children ages 9, 11 and 13 from 11 counties in western North Carolina. Initially enrolled in 1993, the children and their parents or caregivers were interviewed annually until the youngsters turned 16, and then periodically thereafter.

At each assessment until age 16, the child and caregiver were asked, among other things, whether the child had been bullied or teased or had bullied others in the three months immediately prior to the interview. A total of 421 child or adolescent participants — 26 percent of the children — reported being bullied at least once; 88 percent said they suffered no such abuse. Boys and girls reported incidents at about the same rate. Nearly 200 youngsters acknowledged bullying others; 112 were bullies only, while 86 were both bullies and victims.

Of the original 1,420 children, more than 1,270 were followed up into adulthood. The subsequent interviews included questions about the participants’ psychological health. As adults, those who said they had been bullied, plus those who were both victims and aggressors, were at higher risk for psychiatric disorders compared with those with no history of being bullied. The young people who were only victims had higher levels of depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder and agoraphobia.

Those who were both bullies and victims had higher levels of all anxiety and depressive disorders, plus the highest levels of suicidal thoughts, depressive disorders, generalized anxiety and panic disorder.

FDA approves new silicone breast implant from Allergan

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — Health regulators said on Wednesday they have approved a new silicone gel-filled breast implant made by Allergan Inc.

The US Food and Drug Administration said it approved Allergan’s Natrelle 410 implants to increase breast size in women 22 years and older and to rebuild breast tissue in women of any age.

The silicone gel in the Natrelle 410 implant is designed to be firmer than that in Allergan’s previous Natrelle implant.

The FDA requires Allergan to conduct a series of studies after the product is approved to assess the long term safety. It must follow about 3,500 women for five years and conduct a 10-year study of more than 2,000 women receiving the implant.

The agency based its approval on seven years of data from 941 women. Most complications were similar to those found in previous breast implant studies, including tightening of the area around the implant, reoperation, implant removal and infection.

Ozone levels linked to cardiac arrest

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — Cardiac arrests are more likely when levels of air pollution — especially soot-like particles and ozone — have been high in recent days or even hours, according to a large study from Texas.

Evidence already links airborne particles with heart disease and lung problems but the new findings are the first to show that high ozone may immediately raise the risk that a person’s heart will stop beating. “Heart patients should consider when there are high ozone levels that they should take extra care of themselves,” lead author Katherine Ensor of Rice University in Houston told Reuters.

About 300,000 Americans experience cardiac arrest — when the heart abruptly stops and therefore can’t get blood to the rest of the body — outside of hospitals each year and less than 10 percent survive. Cardiac arrest can be caused by electrical problems in the heart muscle, sudden trauma or longstanding disease. Previous studies have found that living in polluted cities or near highways for many years can raise the risk of heart disease in general, but they mainly point the finger at small airborne particles.

Ozone is more often associated with short-term worsening of asthma and other lung diseases. To see whether various air pollutants have any direct effect on cardiac arrest rates, Ensor and her colleagues compared a database of cardiac arrests that took place outside of hospitals in Houston with air quality records for the city between 2004 and 2011.

Among the more than 11,000 cardiac arrests without an obvious cause (such as a traumatic injury), researchers found a slight rise when ozone levels were higher than usual.

Adults cut back fast food, but US kids still eat too much fat

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — American adults have made a little progress in recent years in cutting back on calories from fast food, but children are still consuming too much fat, US health researchers say.

French fries, pizza and similar items accounted for about 11 percent of US adults’ caloric intake from 2007 to 2010, on average, down from about 13 percent between 2003 and 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in one of two reports released on Thursday.

Younger adults, black Americans and those who are already obese consumed the highest amounts of such food, which is often high in fat, salt and calories that can doom waistlines.

The CDC found in a separate report that while American children, on average, are consuming fewer calories overall than they used to, the percentage of their calories from artery-clogging saturated fat was still above optimal levels.

Recommended US guidelines suggest that no more than 10 percent of one’s daily calories should come from such fat, but American youth took in between 11 percent and 12 percent from 2009 to 2010, data from the CDC’s National Centre for Health Statistics showed.

Americans’ diets and weight is a source of constant scrutiny and research in a country where two-thirds of the population is considered overweight or obese. According to the CDC, 36 percent of US adults, or 78 million, and 17 percent of youth, or 12.5 million, are obese. Another third are overweight.

The slight decline in fast food consumption among adults reflects a growing trend toward healthier options. Many food and beverage companies have revamped their products or created new, healthier options to account for the shift in consumer tastes.

Century City and downtown Los Angeles are seen through the smog on 31 Dec, 2007. — Reuters

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**WORLD**

**Russian PM visits Cuba to boost ties**

HAVANA, 22 Feb—Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev arrived in Cuba on Thursday to boost the comprehensive relations between the two countries. Medvedev’s agenda includes meeting with Cuban leader Raul Castro, signing several bilateral agreements, and visiting the 22nd Havana International Book Fair, according to Cuba’s foreign ministry.

Reuters’ diplomatic sources said seven intergovernmental and interdepartmental documents, including a cooperation agreement in the fields of space research and a memorandum of understanding between Russian corporation Rosatom and Cuba’s Nuclear Security Centre, were expected to be signed during the prime minister’s visit.

**Gunmen hit military helicopter in Papua, evacuation delayed**

JAKARTA, 22 Feb—A crew member was wounded on Friday when unknown gunmen shot at a military helicopter flying 7 casualties of Thursday’s attack in Sinak, Papua, forcing the military to delay the evacuation, an officer said here.

Thursday’s attack also killed one soldier and injured another in Tingamabut, Papua, bringing the death toll in two separate attacks to 8 soldiers with two other soldiers injured, Iskandar Sitompul, spokesman of Indonesian military said. “This morning a helicopter Superpuma flying the 7 victims in Sinak was shot. The bullet hit left hand of a soldier in the helicopter and caused a problem to the helicopter,” Sitompul told Xinhua by phone. “So, we can not evacuate the bodies until the situation is conducive to not evacuate the bodies until the situation is conducive to evacuate the bodies.”

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**Major snowstorm moves into US Midwest, threatens New England**

KANSAS CITY, 22 Feb—A major winter storm moved into the US Midwest on Thursday, blanketing states from Minnesota to Ohio with a mix of blinding snow, sleet and freezing rain.

The same storm dumped more than a foot of snow in Kansas, stranded motorists on highways and forced airports to cancel hundreds of flights.

The storm is expected to eventually reach the East Coast this weekend, delivering heavy snow to parts of New England for a third straight weekend, from northern Connecticut to southern Maine.

Kansas bore the brunt of the storm, with up to 15 inches of snow in some parts of the state, according to the National Weather Service. A 200-mile (323-km) stretch of Interstate 70 in central Kansas was closed and stranded with cars stuck in snow.

“When there is thunder and lightning, it’s a pretty screaming clue that you are going to have massive snowfall,” said Andy Bailey, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and Kansas Governor Sam Brownback declared states of emergency because of hazardous travel and possible power outages. Brownback ordered state offices closed because of the storm.

Kansas City International Airport was closed on Thursday while crews cleared runways. It was unclear when the airport would reopen, spokesman Joe McBride said.

At the Denver International Airport, some 55 commuter flights were canceled overnight, spokeswoman Laura Coale said.

**US slams Iran’s installation of new centrifuges**

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—The Obama administration on Thursday denounced as “yet another provocative step” Iran’s latest installation of new centrifuges at its main uranium enrichment plant, calling on the Islamic republic to engage in “serious and substantive” talks with the world powers over its disputed nuclear programme.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland called Iran’s move “a further escalation and a continuing violation of Iran’s obligations” under the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board.

“So it would mark yet another provocative step,” she said at a regular news briefing. An IAEA report released earlier in the day said Iran has started the installation of IR-2m centrifuges, a new model of its centrifuges which could significantly boost its uranium enrichment capacity, at its Natanz plant.

Iran, however, stressed that the advanced centrifuges would be applied to produce five-percent enriched uranium. “We’re obviously concerned that Iran continues to flout its international obligations and has refused to halt its enrichment activities and in fact is taking steps to expand its capacity,” Nuland said. “It already has enough uranium to fuel the Teheran research reactor for at least a decade, and its recent actions would allow it to increase its stockpiles, you know, well beyond the civilian need,” she added.

Iran insists that its nuclear programme is for power generation and medical use only, but the West regards it as a cover for making nuclear weapons.

The latest installation came as Iran has agreed to resume talks with Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany, the so-called P5+1, over its nuclear project next Tuesday in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

**UN to hold special session on population next year**

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Feb — The UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday decided to hold a special session next year on the follow-up to a plan adopted at an international conference nearly two decades ago on the world population explosion. “A special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development will be held on 22 Sept, 2014 in New York in the most efficient and cost-effective manner,” said a Press release issued here by the UNGA.

Adopting a resolution on the issue without a vote, the 193-member Assembly urged all UN member and observer states and observers to consider being represented at the special session at the highest political level, including head of state or government. According to the Press release, the plenary meetings of the special session next year will feature statements by the UN secretary-general, UNA president, executive director of the UN Population Fund, UN member states, observer states and observers, as well as five selected representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, chosen with due regard for geographic balance.

**Gunmen kill civilians in Sinak, Papua**

A Saturday, 23 February, 2013

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Xinhua

, 22 Feb—A Saturday, 23 February, 2013

WORLD

6 New Light of Myanmar

, 22 Feb—

jured 2 civilians.—

jured another in Tinginambut and soldiers seriously in-

jured logistics in Sinak on

Thursday morning killed 5

Tinginambut and soldiers

attacked on the military post in

the spokesman said the at-

cubs. "This morning a heli-

man of Indonesian military

Iskandar Sitompul, spokes-

er of Indonesian military said. “This morning a heli-

copter," Sitompul told

Xinhua.

An amphibious tourist bus enters the water in Tokyo’s Koto Ward on 22 Feb, 2013, as reporters were offered a ride before the vehicle is put into service in March.

KYODO NEWS

US slams Iran’s installation of new centrifuges

WU Bangguo (R), chairman of the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, listens to the introduction on the city planning in Macao Tower in southern China, on 21 Feb, 2013. Wu is in Macao to attend celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

XINHUA

Major snowstorm moves into US Midwest, threatens New England

KANSAS CITY, 22 Feb—A major winter storm moved into the US Midwest on Thursday, blanketing states from Minnesota to Ohio with a mix of blinding snow, sleet and freezing rain.

The same storm dumped more than a foot of snow in Kansas, stranded motorists on highways and forced airports to cancel hundreds of flights.

The storm is expected to eventually reach the East Coast this weekend, delivering heavy snow to parts of New England for a third straight weekend, from northern Connecticut to southern Maine.

Kansas bore the brunt of the storm, with up to 15 inches of snow in some parts of the state, according to the National Weather Service. A 200-mile (323-km) stretch of Interstate 70 in central Kansas was closed and stranded with cars stuck in snow.

“When there is thunder and lightning, it’s a pretty screaming clue that you are going to have massive snowfall,” said Andy Bailey, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and Kansas Governor Sam Brownback declared states of emergency because of hazardous travel and possible power outages. Brownback ordered state offices closed because of the storm.

Kansas City International Airport was closed on Thursday while crews cleared runways. It was unclear when the airport would reopen, spokesman Joe McBride said.

At the Denver International Airport, some 55 commuter flights were canceled overnight, spokeswoman Laura Coale said.

Reuters

Stranded motorists are seen during a Blizzard in Overland Park, Kansas, on 21 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS
**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Myanmar, Luxembourg to cooperate in tourism module**

**NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—**Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwewe, on a working visit to Luxembourg, yesterday held talks with the delegation led by Director-General of Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Mrs Martine Schommer at his office here this afternoon.

They held discussion on cooperation in tourism subject to be included in education sector.

**MANDALAY, 22 Feb—**A ceremony to honour the artistes who participated in the fund-raising entertainment for earthquake victims in Mandalay Region was held at Oriental House on 9 February afternoon.

**Artistes, wellwishers for fund-raising entertainment honoured in Mandalay**

**Chairman of the Artistes Social Service Programme Writer Thaik Tun Thet and Writer Hsu Hnget spoke words of thanks.**

They handed over K 20 million obtained from the fund-raising entertainment to Deputy Director U Than Win of Mandalay Region Government. Next, officials presented certificates of honour to the artistes and wellwishers who contributed to the entertainment.

**MNA**

**Winning teams awarded in Men’s Open Volleyball Tournament**

**Oo, Secretary U Myint Swe and Chairman of Township Volleyball Subcommittee U Saw Hla Tun presented best player award to Aung Ko Lait from Nandwin Youth Team and first, second and third prizes to the winning teams. Chairman of the Region Volleyball Subcommittee Dr Hla Kywe awarded first prize winning Nandwin Youth team and Region’s tentative- ly selected women’s team.**

**Myanma Alinn**

**Traditional medicine kits distributed**

**The Chief Minister, the Deputy Minister for Health and the chairman of Nippon Foundation, the deputy speaker of Shan State Hluttaw and officials presented the medicine kits to responsible persons of villages.**

**Myanma Alinn**

**Pre-primary students take part in skill contest**

**Myeik, 22 Feb—**Myeik District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Myeik Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association jointly organized the physical and mental skill contest for pre-primary schools at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 13 February morning.

**Students from Phayangahu Pre-Primary School, Kaungsan Modern Pre-Primary School, Self-reliant Pre-Primary School of Township MCWA, Tun Modern Pre-Primary School, Myititamon Pre-Primary School and Maung Maung Pre-Primary School showed off their brilliant skills in the contest.**

**Chairperson of Myeik District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Phyu Phyu Win and wellwishers presented prizes to winner students.**

**Myanma Alinn**

**Nyaungbin, 22 Feb—**Nyaungbin Township Development Affairs Committee disbursed loans to 206 vendors of markets in Nyaungbin, Pyaungmyo myo, Madauk and Paing Zohal in the township in Bago Region at Thiri Yadana Hall on Azami Road on 20 February.

**On the occasion, Township Administrator U Thi Han Soe made a speech. Executive Officer U Hla Thaung of Township DAC explained disbursement of loans from the Government to the vendors with reasonable interest for alleviation of poverty.**

**In-charge of the markets U Khin Maung Aye read the disciplines of loan disbursement.**

**Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Soe Paing, the Township Administrator, the executive officer of DAC and Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Tin Moe Thu presented loans to vendors.**

**The Head of Township IRD handed over 5 per cent tax to the Township DAC.**

**Myanma Alinn**

**Invitational Football Tournament wraps up in Sagaing**

**SAGAING, 22 Feb—**In commemoration of the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the Shwe Zeyar Cup Invitation Football Tournament, Volleyball, Sepak Takraw Contest, Tennis and Long- range Race were held at the sports ground in Sagaing and other designated places with the assistance of Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister (Rtd) for Construction, U Thein Soe (Sports In-charge) gave Shwe Zeyar Cup to football first prize winning Sagaing Youth team.—**Myanma Alinn

**Japanese Govt’s Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects**

**YANGON, 22 Feb—**Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) of Japan Government two humanitar- ian programmes namely US$ 86,605 for construction of Dayeloo Village Basic Education Middle School Branch in Kungyangon Township and US$ 77,293 for construction of Kaytharawati Nunnery Primary School in Thaylin Township were launched.

**The handing over ceremony and opening ceremony of each school was held on 13 and 14 February. Mr Kiyotomi Tada, second secretary of the Japanese Embassy, District and Township education officers, respective school management committee members and local people attended the ceremonies.**

**A total of 12 teachers are nurturing 350 students at Dayeloo BEMS Branch. About 300 students are learning education under teaching of 17 teachers at Kaytharawati Nunnery.**

**Lwe-elk Parahita Association to donate blood**

**YANGON, 22 Feb—**Lwe-elk Parahita Association will collectively donate blood at Insein General Hospital on 24 February.

**It will be the fourth time for the association.**

**The association was established in early 2010. So far, the association has recruited over 10000 members in addition to 100 permament members.**

**The association sets an aim to provide assistance for needy persons, orphans, the aged and monastic education schools.**

**Those wishing to donate blood donors may contact 09-73213951 of Ko Tin Myo Zaw.**

**Myanma Alinn**
**NATIONAL**

**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets committee chairmen, secretaries and commission members**

*Nav Pyi Taw, 22 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held a coordination meeting with committee chairmen, secretaries and commission members at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, this evening. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered an address and committee chairmen, secretaries and commission members reported on their ongoing tasks. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.*

Asama Hla Phyu

**UEC Chairman meets Democracy Program Director**

*Nav Pyi Taw, 22 Feb—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received a delegation led by Democracy Program Director Dr David Carroll of the Carter Center of the United States of America at his office, here, this afternoon. The Chairman of UEC discussed arrangements being made to hold free and fair election and preparation made for holding 2015 election and sharing of experience on holding free and fair election. The Democracy Program Director also discussed monitoring system in election and international-standard election system. They then exchanged views. Present at the call together with the Chairman of UEC were members U Myint Naing, U Aung Myint, Dr Myint Kyi, U Win Kyi, U Nyunt Tin and U Win Ko, Commission Secretary U Tin Tun and departmental personnel.*

Asama Hla Phyu

**Union FM meets Director of Carter Center, Chinese Ambassador**

*Nav Pyi Taw, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin received a delegation led by Dr. David Carroll, Director of Democracy Program of The Carter Center, at his office, here, this morning. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and The Carter Center. The Union Minister also received Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua who has completed his tour of duty at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this afternoon.*

**Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) to be opened in Mandalay**

*Nav Pyi Taw, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo held talks with Task Force Team led by Mr. S. Ramadorai, Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of India at his office here on 20 February morning. The meeting focused on subjects to be lectured at Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, lab materials for the institute, teaching aids, internet facilities, infrastructures and opening of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay with the assistance of India. Technical training courses for undergraduate and post-graduate trainees will be launched at Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT). Moreover, it will include Research Centre for e-Commerce and e-Governance, Centre for Communication, English and Soft Skills, Centre for Network Management, Centre for Corporate Professional Development and Centre for Community Learning Management departments for implementing the major functions of the institute.*

Asama Hla Phyu

**Responsible country**

Nowadays, Myanmar is taking significant steps towards re-entering into international monetary market and economic community, and is gaining more ground.

And thanks to the harmonious efforts of the government and the people, Myanmar is witnessing greater progress in multiple sectors than ever before. For international loan assistance, the government can make successful coordination with major donor countries apart from WB, IMF and ADB. The result is that Myanmar could reduce a very large amount of international debts in terms of US dollars with the cooperation of Paris Club member countries including Norway and Japan.

But the important thing here is that all the stakeholders and the entire national people should always strive in unity with magnanimity to overcome any kind of crisis and go forward with might and main towards the democracy goal.

At the same time, we need to place special focus on political stability, internal peace and stability and national unity to make success of our reform as the ongoing peace process has reached delicate and sensitive stage. In fact, losses as the consequences of ongoing conflicts and the trauma locals from conflict regions suffer are also the losses of our society.

It is undeniable that the present political achievements are attributable to collaboration of the government, the parliament, the Armed Forces, civil society organizations and the entire people. Democracy cannot be practiced just by holding elections. It means the knowledgeable entire people can make their own choices without suppression and restrictions.

Now our country can get international loans. And the funds of dollars in millions will be used for multiple sectors involving poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, construction of schools, hospitals, roads and bridges, power generation and supply of potable water and so on as a responsible country, for standing tall among the world nations.

**Dentists give dental, oral care**

*Bago, 22 Feb—Hailing the World Oral Health Day which falls on 20 March, Chairman Dr Kyaw Sein of Myanmar Dental Association (Bago Branch), Secretary Dr Khin Zaw Thaung and 14 member dentists made a field trip to Kahitagale Village of Bago Township on 16 February. They provided dental and oral care services to over 300 local people and gave toothpaste and tooth brushes to them.—Myanma Alinn*

**U Win Kyi visits the border**

*U Win Kyi, Union Minister for Border Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, who has completed his tour of duty at the Ministry of Border Affairs, here, this afternoon, arrived at the Meiktila border area from Nay Pyi Taw. U Win Kyi is scheduled to visit areas near the China border and border villages with China during his visit. The Border Affairs Ministry has already started many development projects in border areas. U Win Kyi will be briefed on the progress of these projects during his visit. The Union Minister also received Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua who has completed his tour of duty at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this afternoon.*

**Tax payer**

*Thiha Tayza*)
NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Bill Committee submitted two reports to Amyotha Hluttaw today.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Dr Maung Maung Hlay, Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency (5) urging the Union government to open youth nurseries in border areas was discussed by four MPs and clarified by Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Dr Maung Maung Hlay.

Dr Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State Constituency (6) and U Hnin Gyi of Mandalay Region Constituency (9) submitted proposals on urbanization of border town.

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.

Phnom Penh Post, 22-2-2013

Industrialists voice their…

The prices of the hotels are even higher. Soon, we are going to compete with FDI and foreign countries.

Dr Khin Maung Oo General Secretary of Committee

One unit cost with generator is more than fourfold, but with electric power it is K 75. Small industries cannot afford to use generators. And they cannot make manufacturing when power is out. Some SMEs have generators. The industries with no generators have to pay salaries to the workers while stopping for a break. They would have to face a decrease in production. They can stand although power shortage lasts four or five months in a year. In the long-run, they might face difficulties. In Hlmethayar Industrial Zone, but the number of medium industries is more than SMEs. The industries here see more progress. Electricity is the lifeblood of industries. It is impossible to compete with foreign countries as one unit charge is between K 300 and K 400.

U Aung Shwe Committee Secretary-1

Energy is essential for industries. There should not be power cut. Computers and machines could break down if power is not full. I cannot run the oil mill not having electricity. The major requirement is electricity. And it also needs clean water and smooth transportation in addition to better infrastructures. Only then, it can reduce transportation charges and compete with the other countries.

It is difficult to predict the current production capacity. Because I have to operate my oil mill with generator when power is out. It is impossible to stop production.

The workers have no jobs and go back to their homes when the mill is not in operation. They might be in other factories and places if they are called to come back here when the power resumes. This is the consequential matters. This is the duty of factory’s owners. Traders might not face such kinds of problems.

U Aye Tun Committee Secretary-2

In the world, these small industries become bigger.

Committee Secretary-1

U Aung Shwe.
**Vietnam set to further facilitate trade with Africa this year**

Hanoi, 22 Feb—Vietnam plans to further facilitate trade with Africa, a potentially populated market with over 1 billion people. It expects to pocket about 3.12 billion US dollars from the exports to this continent in 2013, an increase of 20 percent year on year, local Press has reported.

In recent years, the annual two-way trade between Vietnam and Africa has increased over 20 percent on the average.

Specifically, in 2012, Vietnam earned 2.6 billion dollars from its exports to 55 African countries, among whom 10 major markets accounted for 82 percent of the total export value including South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, Angola, Mozambique and Morocco, local Vietnam Economic Times reported on Wednesday.

Vietnamese exports to Africa mainly included rice, coffee, pepper, sea-food, computers, electronic products and appliances, phones, transport vehicles and spare parts, equipment and machines, garments and footwear.

During 2011-2013, African markets are estimated to annually consume 24 to 24.5 million tons of rice, of which about 10 million tons will be imported. This provides a large room for Vietnamese rice exporters.

In 2012, Vietnam exported rice to 32 African countries, earning 900 million dollars, up 22 percent year on year. It also exported phones and appliances worth 264 million dollars, up 104.7 percent, mainly to South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Angola and Tunisia, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT).

Africa is a potential market which supplies diverse products to Vietnam. Currently, Vietnam imports cotton in service of its garment sector from 21 African countries, mainly from Mali, Togo, Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Benin and Senegal, the ministry said.---Xinhua

**Leftist rebels release two kidnapped gov’t soldiers in S Philippines**

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 22 Feb—Leftist rebels on Thursday released two government soldiers they kidnapped last month in southern Philippines, a military official said.

Private First Class Jez-reel Culango and Police Officer Ruel Pasion were released by their New People’s Army captors at the hinterlands of Kapalong, Davao del Norte Province past 1:00 pm local time and turned over to several religious and non-government organization’s people, according to Captain Nathaniel Morales, spokesperson for the 1003rd Infantry Brigade.

The kidnap victims were then fetched by local officials led by Davao City Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and flown in to the regional army and police headquarters here around 4:00 pm. Morales said the victims were going through a stress debriefing.

New People’s Army (NPA) rebels snatched Culango and Pasion from a checkpoint along a village road in Laak town, Compostela Valley at 17 January.

The NPA’s Merardo Arce Command said in a statement the two “prisoners of war” have been freed as a humanitarian gesture despite that they were found guilty of “lesser offenses” against the rebel movement.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.---Xinhua
New Zealand PM pledges to build one of world’s best cities two years after Christchurch quake

Wellington, 22 Feb—New Zealand Prime Minister John Key on Friday marked the second anniversary of the earthquake that killed 185 people in Christchurch by pledging that the country’s second city would be rebuilt as “one of the best and most livable cities in the world.”

“Out of these broken streets we will rebuild a city likened to a war zone, a new Christchurch will emerge,” Key said in a published speech at a service to commemorate the magnitude 6.3 quake that devastated the city and the surrounding Canterbury region.

“The magnitude of the destruction means we will take some time for the region to fully rebuild and recover. But much progress has been, and will continue to be made,” said Key.

“It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that this city is restored, and that the people of Canterbury are able to rebuild their lives,” Key said.

Singapore sets up inter-agency office to grow space industry

Singapore, 22 Feb—Singapore has set up an inter-agency office to develop the local space industry, a government minister said on Thursday.

A local firm also announced at the Global Space Technology Convention that it plans to launch the first Singapore-made commercial satellite in 2015.

The Office for Space Technology and Industry is a programme office established under the Economic Development Board, said Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Trade and Industry S Iswaran.

It will coordinate resources and efforts by government agencies such as the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the National Research Foundation.

Iswaran said the inter-agency office will plan and execute strategies to drive the growth of the local space industry.

“We believe Singapore will become a compelling location for satellite-related companies to grow their businesses, develop their technologies and export new solutions to the world,” said the minister.

The Economic Development Board, citing a report, said the global space economy grew by 12.2 percent year on year to 290 billion US dollars in 2011, driven largely by the satellite industry, which grew by an annual rate of 10.9 percent since 2006 to hit 177 billion US dollars.

“The Asian satellite industry is poised for growth. The rising affluence of the Asian consumer and increased usage of sophisticated satellite technologies by businesses are fuelling the demand for satellite services in the region,” said Gyan Yi-Hsen, director of the inter-agency office.

New Vietnam, Laos, Laos boost transport cooperation

Hanoi, 22 Feb—Transport ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand gathered at a conference here on Thursday to discuss objectives and solutions to enhance trilateral transport cooperation in the coming time.

At the first-ever event, the three ministers agreed to quickly complete internal transport time and costs, thus attracting transit goods from northeastern Thailand and central Laos to Vietnam’s Vung Ang and Hon La ports in central Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces, especially those transported to the largest economic zone.

Once implemented, the MoT will facilitate the movement of the three countries’ vehicles from the East-West Economic Corridor to Vietnam’s Hanoi and Hai Phong cities, Vientianne of Laos and Leam Chabang of Thailand.

The ministers also agreed on an action plan to realize the agreement between the three governments on land tourism transport which mentions the establishment of subcommittees on transport, tourism, immigration and customs to assist the operation of the three countries’ joint committee.

1.5 million ASEAN people visit Cambodia in 2012

Phnom Penh, 22 Feb—Cambodia received about 1.51 million visitors from its ASEAN member countries last year, up 37 percent year-on-year, according to the statistics of the tourism ministry released on Thursday.

The figure represented 42 percent of total foreign tourists to the country last year, the report said.

Among the countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Vietnamese tourists to Cambodia topped the chart with its 763,100 citizens visited Cambodia last year, followed by Laos with 254,000 people came to the country.

Thailand came at third

23 million Chinese escape poverty in 2012

Beijing, 22 Feb—The number of people living below the poverty line in China was greatly reduced in 2012, as the country increased efforts to boost people’s income, new data has showed.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced on Friday that last year saw some 23.39 million rural dwellers dragged above the poverty line, currently set at 2,300 yuan (about 365.83 US dollars) in annual net income.

The Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang on 18 January announced a set of poverty-fighting plans for major regions including Hengdui, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Hebei, Shanxi, Hunan, Jiangxi,

Relatives of injured children gather outside emergency centre precinct, one of the major government agencies, said to be involved in the accident.

The government is expected to have a poverty alleviation plan in place two years after the reconstruction of the city.

The reconstruction of the city was expected to be completed in 2015.

But this job is unprecedented in the world and we should judge ourselves not only by how far there is to go, but by how far we’ve come,” he said.

This year will also see the rebuilding of the central city going full steam ahead as we move from demolition to construction.

This year, the government announced at the Global Space Technology Convention that it plans to launch the first Singapore-made commercial satellite in 2015.

The Office for Space Technology and Industry is a programme office established under the Economic Development Board, said Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Trade and Industry S Iswaran.

It will coordinate resources and efforts by government agencies such as the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the National Research Foundation.

Iswaran said the inter-agency office will plan and execute strategies to drive the growth of the local space industry. It will work with various industry stakeholders to help them realize their satellite business and innovation initiatives.

“We believe Singapore will become a compelling location for satellite-related companies to grow their businesses, develop their technologies and export new solutions to the world,” said the minister.

The Economic Development Board, citing a report, said the global space economy grew by 12.2 percent year on year to 290 billion US dollars in 2011, driven largely by the satellite industry, which grew by an annual rate of 10.9 percent since 2006 to hit 177 billion US dollars.

“The Asian satellite industry is poised for growth. The rising affluence of the Asian consumer and increased usage of sophisticated satellite technologies by businesses are fuelling the demand for satellite services in the region,” said Gyan Yi-Hsen, director of the inter-agency office.

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The government is expected to have a poverty alleviation plan in place two years after the reconstruction of the city.

The reconstruction of the city was expected to be completed in 2015.
Three dead, two wounded in Nigeria suicide bomb attack

Maiduguri, 22 Feb—Three people including a suicide bomber were killed after the explosion on Wednesday in Nige- ria’s northeastern city Maiduguri, local military con- firmed. Lieutenant Colonel Sa- gir Musa, spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF) said the suicide bomber suspect- ed of links to the West Afri- can country’s Boko Haram sect targeted a patrol team at Post Office Round About in Maiduguri metropolis. “An Improvised Ex- plosive Device targeted at JTF patrol team exploded at Post Office roundabout in Maiduguri metropolis at about 1:00 pm today,” he said in a statement reaching Xinhua. The explosion led to the death of 3 people including the bomber and wounded two others, he said, adding the JTF vehicle was damaged. Musa declined to give further details of the inci- dent as efforts are being made to clear the debris and rescue the affected persons.—Xinhua

Liberian president signs pledge to end violence against women, girls

Monrovia, 22 Feb—Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has signed a pledge to end violence against women and girls, making her the 19th Head of State to sign on to the pledge. A presidential state- ment reaching Xinhua on Wednesday said the Liber- ian leader’s signature of the commitment is in keeping with the UN Secretary- General’s campaign code named: “UNITE to End Vi- olence again Women.”

UN Women is leading a commitment drive for gov- ernments to publicly express their commitment and dedi- cation to ending violence against women and girls. The statement said President Sirleaf concurred with the global campaign that it is the responsibil- ity of all governments to protect their citizens while intensifying efforts to end impunity against violence. “I am committing Liberia to three pledges: adopt domes- tic violence legislation and the National Action Plan on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; and upscale ef- forts with the Liberian Justice System to improve women and girls’ access to justice and to end impunity for violence against women and girls,” the statement quoted the Liberian leader as saying.—Xinhua

Chinese artist Dong Wenhua sings “the Story of Spring” at the “Cultures of Chi- na, Festival of Spring” performance in Auckland, New Zealand, on 20 Feb. 23. A group of Chinese artists organized by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the Chinese State Council and Chinese Overseas Exchanges Association performed on Wednesday to celebrate the Chinese lunar new year.—Xinhua

Sudanese army loses restive area in Blue Nile to rebels

Khartoum, 22 Feb—The Sudanese army on Wednesday said it lost an area in Blue Nile state to fighters of the Sudan Peo- ple’s Liberation Army (SPLA)/northern sector only two days after regaining it from the rebels. “The army has moved out from Mafa area in Blue Nile State after inflicting heavy losses on the fighters who attacked the area,” said Al-Sawarmy Khalid Saad, Sudanese army spokesman, in a statement.

A mixed force of the South Sudanese army and the SPLA/northern sector, likely supported by foreign elements, attacked Mafa area wearing bulletproof vests and driving tanks earlier on Wednesday, he added.

He further said the Su- danese army is preparing for an operation to retake the area as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the Sudanese army spokesman denied that there was fighting taking place in the out- skirts of the strategic town of Al-Kurmk in Blue Nile state.

On Monday the Su- danese army announced it had taken full control over Mafa area in southwest Blue Nile state, which has witnessed armed clashes between the Sudanese army and the rebels of the SPLM/ northern sector since the separation of South Sudan in July 2011.

Xinhua

People perform dragon dance in firecrackers in Binyang County of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 20 Feb., 2013. The Binyang-style dragon dance is a derivative of traditional dragon dance in which perform- ers hold dragon on poles and walk through floods of firecrack- ers. The dance, dating back to over 1,000 years ago, was listed as a state intangible cultural herit- age in 2008.—Xinhua
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Worst time of my career, says Vanessa**

**London,** 22 Feb — Vanessa Hudgens has for the first time opened up about the scandal where her intimate nude pictures were illegally leaked online, calling it the “worst moment of her career”.

The 24-year-old is pushing boundaries today playing edgy roles including a prostitute and violent teen in her movie “Spring Breakers”.

But she says it was difficult to deal with the whole scandal in 2007, reported Daily Mail.

“That was just a really bad situation that sucked”. — PTI

**Singer Emeli Sande wins big at predictable BRIT awards**

British singer Emily Sande performs during the BRIT Awards, celebrating British pop music, at the O2 Arena in London on 20 Feb, 2013.— Reuters

**London,** 22 Feb — Scottish singer Emeli Sande won the coveted best album honour at the BRIT Awards on Wednesday for “Our Version of Events”, confirming her status as favourite going into British pop’s biggest night of the year.

The 25-year-old, who received a major boost by appearing at the Olympics opening and closing ceremonies last summer, also picked up the best British female artist on a night of few surprises in terms of winners and on-stage antics.

“I think I’m a very unlikely pop star,” an emotional Sande told a packed O2 Arena in London on receiving the best album prize. “This is an album I wrote because I didn’t have the confidence to sing these things in person. This is a dream, really, so thank you for this year and thank you for this award. I’m so grateful.” Sande capped her success by performing a medley of “Clown” and “Next to Me” to close the ceremony, broadcast live on commercial channel ITV. The other multiple winner was singer-songwriter Ben Howard, who picked up two of the coveted statuettes designed by Damien Hirst, for British breakthrough act and British male solo. Among the most popular triumphs was that of Frank Ocean, American R&B star who beat acts including Bruce Springsteen and Jack White to land the international male solo artist prize. — Reuters

**Dj dismisses Lindsay Lohan romance rumours**

Los Angeles, 22 Feb — A New York-based Dj Julian Cavin has d i s s m i s s e d r u m o u r s linking him to Lindsay Lohan, insisting he is “just friends” with the actress.

The “Mean Girls” star was rumoured to have struck up a romance with club star Cavin after they were spotted spending time together during nights out in NYC in recent weeks, reported TMZ Online.—PTI

**Victoria Beckham loves making art with Harper**

**London,** 22 Feb — Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham says her “secret pleasure” is taking 19-month-old daughter Harper to a private family club for arts and crafts sessions.

The 37-year-old said during her time off she loves nothing more than buying new stationery and taking her youngest child for some creative play, reported Contactmusic.—PTI

**Mumford & Sons storm to top of Billboard 200 after Grammy win**

Los Angeles, 22 Feb — British folk band Mumford & Sons jumped to No 1 on the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday after their album “Babel” won a top Grammy honour, after several other Grammy performers received boosts on the US charts.

“Babel,” which won the coveted Album of the Year prize at the Grammy awards on 10 February, sold 185,000 copies according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. The band also performed twice on the live television broadcast, which was watched by 28 million people. The album was released in September 2012 and shot to the top of the Billboard 200 chart as one of the biggest-selling debuts of the year. It was ranked No 4 last week before again claiming the top spot after its Grammy boost. The official “2013 Grammy Nominees” compilation album, featuring songs by The Black Keys, Kelly Clarkson, Katy Perry and Gotye, landed at No 2 this week, with 87,000 copies sold.

Grammy performers also saw their albums return to the top 10, with Bruno Mars’ “Unorthodox Jukebox” at No 3, Taylor Swift’s “Red” at No 4, The Lumineers’ self-titled debut record at No 6, FUN.’s “Some Nights” at No 7 and Maroon 5’s “Overexposed” at No 10. The digital songs chart also saw an impact from Grammy performances but none of the artists were able to oust indie rapper Macklemore and Ryan Lewis’ “Thrift Shop” from the top spot, which sold more than 412,000 downloads. — Reuters

**Jennifer Hudson, Zeta-Jones to sing in Oscars musical tribute**

Los Angeles, 22 Feb — Oscar winners Russell Crowe, Jennifer Hudson and Catherine Zeta-Jones will perform at the Academy Awards in a tribute to the resurgence of big screen musicals, organizers said on Wednesday. The performance, which will also feature Oscar nominees Anne Hathaway and Hugh Jackman from “Les Miserables”, is part of the several musical acts at the annual Hollywood awards on Sunday.

“We are pleased to have been able to amass so much talent to create the celebration of musicals of the last decade that we envisioned,” Oscars producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan said in a statement. “We are thrilled that so many talented actors have agreed to bring our vision to life.”

Musicals have had a revival over the past decade in Hollywood.

Death row drama “Chicago” won six Academy Awards in 2003, including top prize Best Picture, and musical drama “Dreamgirls” scored two Oscars in 2007 while television’s “Glee” has won six Emmy awards since 2010. — Reuters
Super Cup provides Hiroshima, Kashiwa with key ACL warm-up

**Big NBA names stay put on dull deadline day**

**Toronto, 22 Feb** — The big names rumoured to be on the move at the National Basketball Association’s trade deadline went nowhere on Thursday as teams opted for tweaks over blockbusters. The Orlando Magic (15-39), with the second worst record in the Eastern Conference, pulled the trigger on the day’s biggest swap, shipping sharpshooting guard J.J. Redick to the Milwaukee Bucks in a multi-player deal, according to media reports.

Redick, who is among the league’s top three-point shooting, averaging a career-high 15.1 points this season, was sent to Milwaukee along with Gustavo Ayon and Ish Smith in return for Tobias Harris, Beno Udrih and Dorn Lamb. But the Boston Celtics’ ‘Kevin Garnett, Los Angeles Lakers’ Pau Gasol and Dwight Howard, Toronto Raptors’ Andrea Bargnani and Atlanta Hawks’ Josh Smith remained in their current uniforms when the trade window slammed shut at 3 pm ET.

All were among the high-end, high-priced talent being shopped around in the media, but making a trade under the NBA’s new collective bargaining agreement can be expensive with a punishing luxury tax being partially blamed for the dull deadline day. Two title contenders, the Miami Heat and Oklahoma City Thunder tinkered with their rosters. The Thunder grabbed small forward Ronnie Brewer from the New York Knicks for a second round pick, then sent backup point guard Eric Maynor to the Portland Trail Blazers for the rights to Greek forward Georgios Printezis.

**Orlando Magic’s guard JJ Redick (L) looks to pass the ball while being defended by New York Knicks’ guard JR Smith (R) and Knicks forward Amar’e Stoudemire in the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 30 Jan, 2013.** — Reuters

**McGrady finishes his first CBA season**

QINGDAO, (China), 22 Feb — Former NBA star Tracy McGrady finished his first Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) season and left Qingdao on Thursday.

McGrady left Qingdao by flight KE846 for Incheon of South Korea and then he will fly back to the United States. About 200 fans saw him off and dozens of guards maintained order at the airport.

Waving to his teammates and fans, McGrady shouted: “I’ll be back!”

McGrady averaged 25 points and 7.2 rebounds per game in his first CBA season though his Qingdao Eagles finished the regular season as the bottom team. The seven-time NBA all star, who had played for Toronto Raptors, Orlando Magic and Houston Rockets in NBA, joined the Qingdao Eagles of CBA in October last year.

**New York, 22 Feb —** Kevin Harvick positioned himself as one of the favorites for Sunday’s Daytona 500 by winning the first of two qualifying races on Thursday to claim the inside lane in the second row for the season-opening NASCAR race. Danica Patrick had already clinched pole in qualifying trials last weekend to become the first woman to achieve that distinction, with Jeff Gordon alongside her on the first row.

Patrick played it safe on Thursday, racing with the pack early in the first ‘Duel’, one of two 150-mile, 60-lap races that finalized the grid for the Daytona 500, before easing back and finishing 17th out of 23 drivers, staying out of trouble to save her car for the race. Harvick, who five days ago won The Sprint Unlimited exhibition race at the Daytona International Speedway, passed leader Trevor Bayne on Lap 37 and led the remaining 23 laps.

“We didn’t come here to run 10th or 12th, wherever we were running,” said Harvick, who made his move on the inside lane. “We wanted to make something happen.” Kyle Busch won the second race to secure the fourth spot on the grid alongside Harvick.

Gordon had led for the first 40 laps before cruising through the last third of the race. Greg Biffle, Juan Pablo Montoya, Jimmie Johnson and Kurt Busch rounded out the top five in the first ‘Duel’. Scott Speed finished 15th, the final spot that guaranteed an entry into the Daytona 500. Finishing behind Busch in the second race were Kasey Kahne, Austin Dillon, Clint Bowyer and Matt Kenseth.

Both qualifiers had relatively peaceful racing, with the only caution flag coming on Lap 52 in the first race when Denny Hamlin bumped Carl Edwards, triggering a four-car crash.

The crash included Bayne, who had led for the majority of the race but will go to a back-up car and start from the rear on Sunday.

**Munich bids for one of Euro 2020 host cities**

BERLIN, 22 Feb — Munich handed its application on Thursday to the German Football Federation to bid for one of the host cities of the 2020 European Championship.

Munich wants to host the final and semifinals, as well as three group games and a knockout match, according to Munich’s representatives including Bavarian governor Horst Seehofer and Munich Mayor Christian Ude. “Bavarians have proved on innumerable occasions that they are very tolerant hosts. That’s the strongest asset,” said Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. Munich has been the first applicant bidding to be the country’s host city for Euro 2020. The German federation has until September to nominate candidate cities to UEFA.

It was announced in January by the sport’s European governing body UEFA that 13 countries will host Euro 2020 matches, with each providing a single stadium for the 24-team tournament. Euro 2020 host cities are to be chosen in September 2014 by UEFA.
Beautiful Chaung Thar Beach in Myanmar

Chaung Thar Beach is located 40 km to the west of Pathein (Bassein) in Ayeyarwaddy Division. It is about 5 hrs drive from Yangon to Chaung Thar Beach. It is an attractive wide beach with a muddy delta look. Not only coconut palms but also casuarinas trees can be found at the back of the beach. Two small islands can be seen offshore. The crab market of Chaung Thar Beach are also delicious and well-known. Fresh coconut juice will make relax here.

There are bungalow type hotels along the beach with modern facilities. While listening to the whispering of the wind in the trees and among the palm fronds and to the regular sleeping inducing beat of the oceanbreakers as you relax in your rattan chair amidst the balmy breezes you will find yourself visibly relaxing and your cares and tensions slipping away.—NLM

Bolt to race in Copacabana beach sprint

Rio de Janeiro, 22 Feb—Usain Bolt will next month compete in a 150m race on Rio de Janeiro’s iconic Copacabana beach, according to a statement on the six-time Olympic champion’s website.

The 26-year-old will compete against four other elite sprinters in the 31 March event dubbed Desafio Mano a Mano, meaning Hand-in-Hand Challenge in Portuguese. It will be Bolt’s second trip to Rio, having visited the city last year as part of a promotional tour organized by his sponsor Puma.

Bolt won gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay events at both the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the London Games last year. Paralympic sprint champion Oscar Pistorius had accepted an invitation to attend the Rio event before being arrested for allegedly murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on 14 February.—Xinhua

Aussie swimmers admit using sedative

SYDNEY, 22 Feb — James Magnussen and his team mates from the Australian men’s 4x100m relay squad have admitted using a sedative banned by their national Olympic committee in a bonding session before the London Games.

The prescription drug Stilnox was banned by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) just before the 2012 Games and the athletes now face sanctions from the governing body for breaching their Olympic team membership agreement.

“We stand here today to admit that we took Stilnox following a day of bonding for the relay team at the training camp in Manchester,” said the six swimmers in a statement read out at a news conference in Sydney on Friday. The Olympic silver medallist and his team mates Matt Targett, Eamon Sullivan, James Roberts, Cameron McEvoy and Tommaso D’Orsogna apologized for their actions, which they said followed a “tradition” in the Australian relay team.

The statement said the drug had been prescribed before the AOC ban and the swimmers had then indulged in “childish” and “stupid” pranks such as knocking on the doors of other athletes. “I think one of the reasons I agreed to go along with it was all the pressure I was under,” said Magnussen. “Completely inappropriate in hindsight.”

A Misuse of prescriptions drugs along with allegations of drunkenness, breaching curfews, deceit and bullying were highlighted in a review published on Tuesday, which said slack

Winnipeg Jets defenceman Redmond sliced by skate in practice

NEW YORK, 22 Feb—Winnipeg Jets defenceman Zach Redmond was taken to hospital towards the end of Thursday’s warmup ahead of their game against the Carolina Hurricanes after being cut on the back of the leg. The 24-year-old Redmond, who has a goal and three assists in eight games this season, was taken to hospital to close a deep gash above his knee that left a pool of blood on the ice.

Winnipeg (6-8-1) are battling to get into the playoffs, standing four points out of the eighth Eastern Conference berth. We were trying to get our extra players conditioned, and there was a 1-on-1 battle at the net where he (Redmond) tripped up and landed on his back,” Jets coach Claude Noel told reporters. “(Another) player

Mcllroy and Woods go out on day of upsets

MARANA, (Arizona), 22 Feb—World number one Rory McIlroy and three-times winner Tiger Woods were both sent packing in stunning fashion in the snow-delayed first round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship on Thursday. Northern Irishman McIlroy, a losing finalist last year, was ousted 1-up by his good friend Shane Lowry of Ireland while Woods was eliminated 2&1 by fellow American Charles Howell in fading light at Dove Mountain.

Once again the elite World Golf Championships event lived up to its reputation for wild unpredictability and there were 14 upsets from the 30 matches which finished at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club. Two matches will have to be completed on Friday, a knock-out format from Wednesday when just three-and-a-half hours of play was possible because of driving rain, sleet and then snow. The premature departure of McIlroy in his first PGA Tour appearance of the year was stunning, but Lowry always believed he had the game to pull off an upset. “Deep down I knew I could beat him,” the 25-year-old Irishman said after chipping in for birdie at the 11th and 12th to take control of the match. “I’m not here for no reason. I’m not here to make up the numbers.—Reuters

Australia’s James Magnussen reacts after his men’s 50m freestyle heat during the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Aquatics Centre on 2 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets sports federations’ chiefs

YANGON, 22 Feb—Patron of XXVII SEA Games Organizing Leading Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun met with presidents of sports federations in Myanmar at National Indoor Stadium (1) here this afternoon.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman of the committee Union Sports Minister U Tint Hsan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon region ministers, departmental heads, presidents and vice-presidents of Myanmar sports federations.

The Vice-President said he was encouraged by the preparations for the SEA Games.

Eight sports would be played in Yangon, he added.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan said about 1400 athletes are undergoing training for the games to be hosted in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Ngwehsaung beach.

Next, the Presidents and responsible persons of federations reported on their respective works and requirements to the Vice-President who attended to their needs.

Then the Vice-President presented sports gear worth K 1159.165 million to the federations.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-President said the XXVII SEA Games was a sports competition Myanmar was going to host for the first time in more than forty years and called for collaborative efforts to be able to hold the event successfully, assuming it as an opportunity to promote the image of the nation whatever there would be difficulties and challenges.—MNA

Schools, bridges and health care facilities for Chin and Naga brethren

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win met Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri, who has completed his tour of duty at his office here this morning.

Both sides exchanged views on education, health and infrastructural buildings to be implemented in Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone with the assistance of Indian government and cooperation in providing educational aids to both communities in Rakhine State.

Indian ambassador raised questions about the plan to be carried out by the Ministry of Border Affairs which will be provided with US$ 25 million by India government starting from 2012-2013 to 2016-2017 financial years. The Union Minister replied that the ministry has already arranged to construct eleven basic education primary schools, nine rural health care centers and five bridges above 180-ft in Chin State and ten BEPSs, eight rural health care centers and three bridges above 100-ft in Naga Self-Administered Zone.—MNA

Success awaits Myanmar shooting team in intensive training

Shooting is one of the sports which is always sure to bag gold medals for the Myanmar sports contingent in SEA Games which is held every two years. But Myanmar shooting team failed to bring success in 2011 Indonesian SEA Games. That’s why, athletes are under intensive training for the XXVII SEA Games that Myanmar will host to be able to achieve success.

“Members of Myanmar shooting team are being provided with adequate training in Nay Pyi Taw. The tentatively selected team is formed with old and new shooters alike. Among old shooters, Maung Kyu, Aung Nyein Ni, Aung Thura, Lin Aung, Than Than Saw and Lay Zat Zat Hlaing Myint are former gold medalists in shooting event of SEA Games. Maung Kyu is one of the record-breaking SEA Games medalists. The tentatively selected shooters are given training twice a day to be successful in upcoming event. Reserved shooters are also undergoing training to be ready for substitution of the injured and those with low performance”, coaches U Khin Aung Htoo and U Myint Aung said.

While undergoing training, shooters are allowed to do their training with the use of live bullets. They used to face many difficulties while competing in the contests as they did not get comprehensive training. Nonetheless, the Myanmar shooting team put in an excellent performance at the previous competitions.

“We will be at the advantage in the event as our shooters are being provided with training with the use of live bullets. Only when they use live bullets in their training, will they be the best in the competition. We would like to express our thanks to the Union Minister for Sports and the President of Myanmar Shooting Federation who fulfilled our requirements”, they added.

Kyemon (22-2-2013)
Trs: YM